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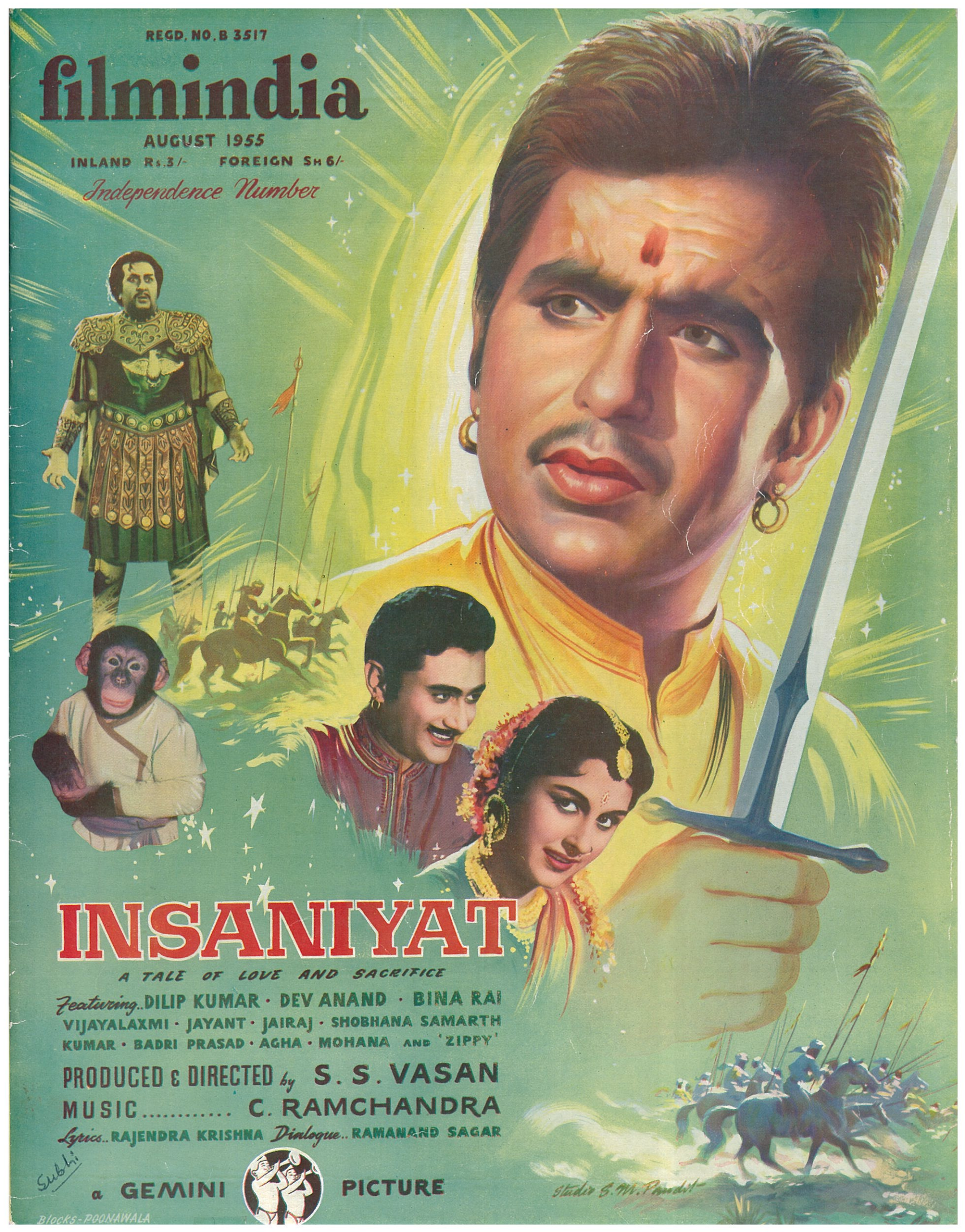

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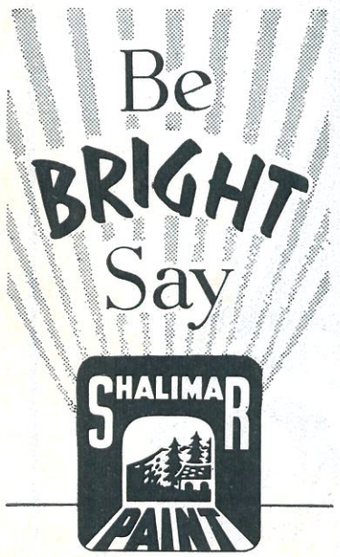

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Editor : BABURAO PATEL

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Killing The Goose

"In India you have an excellent film magazine and a rotten film industry. In Hollywood we have an excellent film industry and rotten film magazines," said Hollywood's well-known writer Geza Herczeg after reading a dozen different issues of "Filmindia", visiting over a dozen Indian studios, meeting all important film people and seeing over fifty Indian pictures in a row. After that Geza Herczeg went up to consult Gandhiji about the screenplay he was writing and never returned.

That was in 1951. Have the things changed since? Yes! "Filmindia" has become a better magazine and the film industry has become a worse problem. Over a dozen producers have become officially insolvent while most of the rest unofficially enjoy a bankrupt status. Even the best of them who once moved about like prize peacocks now run around like common fowls looking out for a grain here and a grain there.

Tired? Yes! Every bride, however young and enthusiastic, gets tired soon. All women are brides for a day but mothers for a life-time. And Nargis is no exception. In this beautiful study she rings down the curtain on a tiring day a farmer's young wife goes through in a long life-time of toil and tears. In this traditional role Nargis gives a brilliant performance in "Mother India", Mehboob's screen classic in Geva-colour.

But for the purpose of this article we shall forget these fowls that foul the screen and call themselves producers in the process. Let us for a while lend them sympathy, if not character, and review the economic conditions under which they work and lose continuously.

The greatest tragedy of the motion picture business is that you see its success. If a man manufactures any other article of trade and sells it by millions, you don't see its success even though his banker knows it. It is not so with motion pictures. A motion picture has to be advertised as a success even when it turns out to be merely a notion picture and when it actually succeeds you not only see its success and read its success but also feel its success through annoyance when the conveyance you are in gets into a traffic jam. In the motion picture business therefore people have to radiate more heat than the fire warrants and light more lamps than the energy provided for. It is thus a game with a constant overload —overload that creates more glare and glamour than vital energy.

In this game of motion picture production which provides profits and exercise to many only one man gets exhausted. And that is the producer. He is the man who becomes bankrupt first because he is the man who sets out first to make profits out of others. Thus the game ends in poetic justice.

Why do our producers become bankrupt? Apart from their own basic shortcomings about which we are not talking in this article, the major reason is the suicidal trade system adopted and nursed by our producers all these years. It is a system based on gambling profits rather than on economic earnings. Everyone from the financier downwards joins the film industry to double his money saying all the while that his risk is so great that nothing less than double the returns could compensate him.

This is a well-nursed fallacy to which the producers themselves have lent some emphasis by keeping character and conscience out of their business dealings. How can a product, which has a thousand facets of attraction in sex, song, dance, scenery and other beauties of eye, ear and heart and which has to be evalued by millions of people of varying tastes, be a great risk? If for instance a food product is manufactured for a single uniform taste one can imagine a smaller following and a greater element of risk in marketing it. But a motion picture which caters to varying tastes in various countries of the world must be described as perhaps the smallest risk in the financial world. We once had an occasion to convince a very shrewd banker about this. He could not deny the success story which the facts and figures of several pictures revealed. And yet that man failed to convince his directors who turned round and said, "All film producers are rogues and scoundrels and we don't want to risk money on them." Though there are quite a few producers who are not rogues and scoundrels, we accept this general observation as only too true because most of our producers actually are rogues and scoundrels. But calling them rogues and scoundrels and leaving them to die their natural death

Why should a face and youth like that be playing with a knife? When the eyes can cause a bloodless death, why should you use the knife at all? Let us not have bloodshed in romance. And yet Vyjayantimala must be having a pretty good reason to go about with a butcher's tool in "Kismet-ka-Khel", a thrilling entertainer.

does not help us to build a national industry which has a million uses in building our new nation. The bankers must ignore the scoundrels, encourage the industrious and prove to the world that the film industry can also be a safe and profitable investment like any other industry. Our bankers will never do so because they are the most spineless creatures found anywhere in the world.

This apathy of the professional banker has brought into the Indian film industry a Frankenstein known as the film financier. To call him a bed bug would be insulting the bug because the bug sucks so little of the human blood. To call him a butcher would again be describing him wrongly because the butcher ends all pain in a single stroke. The film financier is a sort of a monster leech on two legs because this carnivorous worm sucks enough blood to debilitate but not to kill. He makes his victim pale and anaemic, too weak to escape, too weak to help himself. He thus not only takes profit but also the soul of the producer.

There are many of them in the film industry. Their methods are different but their results are uniquely uniform. Some agree to finance an entire picture from the first shot till the release on a legal interest of 9% plus 10% royalty for financing with numerous clauses with which the producer mortgages everything except his wife. (Usually the wife is not worth mortgaging.)

We shall now work out a typical finance agreement for a picture costing Rs. 4,00,000|-. The first condition of 10% finance royalty enables the financier to deduct Rs. 40,000|- straightaway before even paying out a penny. The second condition of keeping money for positive prints takes another Rs. 50,000|- out of the hands of the producer. A publicity contribution of Rs. 50,000|- is again straightaway deducted. The producer has thus already received, on the day of signing a finance agreement, Rs. 1,40,000|- without being paid one copper pice actually. The balance of Rs. 2,60,000|- is made payable in various instalments according to the progress of the picture and at the absolute discretion of the financier. On the signing day the producer sometimes gets Rs. 10,000|- but usually this amount is paid on what they call the "Muhurt Day" i.e. the first day of the shooting of the picture, on which day they garland the financier and pray for the best. Against the Rs. 4 lakhs, to be exact Rs. 2,60,000, which the financier has agreed to finance, he takes all the advances received from the various distributors in the country against the picture. In the case of well-established producers these advances amount to over Rs. 5 lakhs for a picture costing four lakhs and nearly Rs. 3 lakhs from these are paid during production. These advances usually begin coming in regularly by instalments a fortnight after the financier's agreement is signed and a picture is advertised. This money is used by the financier to finance the producer. The financier thus straightaway earns Rs. 40,000|- (usually black money) without a penny's investment plus shavings from publicity expenses plus commissions from prints plus his legitimate 9% interest, and all this merely for a signature to finance.

Another more brainy system of dividing the risk, earning more profits and "befriending" a larger number of producers is very popular these days. In this system the financier agrees to finance the producer up to one lakh of rupees by instalments according to progress. He makes the producer sign an agreement for Rs. 1,20,000|- for six months—Rs. 20,000|- being black bonus on one lakh of rupees for six months. The producer is allowed to take

50% of the advances from his distributors during production. From the remaining 50%, the producer has to pay the financier his Rs. 1,20,000|- with of course 9% legal interest. So the negative of the picture is rightaway mortgaged with the financier and every foot that is shot from day to day is delivered to the financier. Finally when the picture is ready, the financier collects his Rs. 1,20,000|- from the distributors by himself delivering the copies to them. The actual finance of Rs. 1 lakh is paid in instalments of even Rs. 500|- and after the producer has prostrated and humiliated himself long enough at the feet of the financier at least once a day.

This system, in addition to the distribution of risk and automatic expansion of financial activities with less capital, provides the sadistic pleasure of seeing a large number of proud and artistic producers, who call themselves creators of art, standing in a queue for hours often to be told to go back and come next day. What greater homage can money squeeze from art than the latter's abject and absolute humiliation in a suppliants' queue?

A third system is a combination of one of the two financing systems plus a distribution contract. The distribution contract becomes an important appendage of the finance agreement when the financier happens to have his own distribution circuit in one or more provinces. In that event either the distribution or the sale of the picture—distribution at a commission ranging from 20% to 50% and sale at a price fixed 25% to 50% lower than the standard for the circuits controlled by the financier becomes a compulsory condition of finance.

The producer signs both these contracts with all or any variations a new financial genius may introduce because by the time he reaches the stage of the dotted line, he has his car mortgaged twice over, his rent overdue by a year, his wife's ornaments lying with the Marwari and his children's milk not paid for for six months. A film producer in India does fight back but then not for long. He ultimately signs on the dotted line and begins another episode of slave labour in the service of art with his eyes towards heaven.

That is how film finance has come into our film industry from the very first film produced in India to the last one on the horizon of production. The producers slaved and sweated day and night and with their slave labour financiers built "mahals" and "bhavans" some of which can be seen on Marine Drive.

Another curse of the film industry is what is known as the film distributor—an entirely superfluous link in a consumer product like entertainment. The distributor is actually a pimp between the producer and the exhibitor and like all pimps he robs both. And when this pimp becomes rich he also calls himself a financier.

We recently saw one of these pimps in action. He is a combination product—pimp, distributor, financier and of course a black bonus operator. In an agreement for a finance of Rs. 4 lakhs, this man had collected in advance Rs. 80,000|- as black bonus, added some old doubtful dues of Rs. 50,000|- and paid the producer an actual cash of Rs. 10,000|-. And the fun of the whole game was that he refused to give further finance and wanted a mortgage on the producer's studio for Rs. 1,40,000|-, out of which he had actually paid only Rs. 10,000|- and to get this he threatened police action. Can you find another like him? Of course, you can. They all look alike, children of the same seed.

This distributor-financier gets his money by way of advance or deposit from the exhibitor against every picture which the distributor books for playing in the exhibitor's theatre. This money which bears no interest is given either as an advance without interest to the producer during production against a distribution agreement weighed down with 20% commission or as a financial loan on the usual interest-plus-royalty-plus-black bonus-plus-free-dinner basis to the producer. In either case the distributor makes his profits all the time trading on the exhibitor's money and the producer's dire necessity. He

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is in a business without any risk, without any pinch, without any art and without any conscience or feeling. That is precisely the definition of a pump.

Increasing misfortunes of our producers with the increasing wealth of these distributors have made most of the distributors dishonest, overwise and arrogant. It is not unusual to see distributors—crude and uneducated pimps at best—dominating producers' story conferences, pushing in their favourite bed companions as artistes, prescribing songs and dances and even writing songs themselves. It is a common sight to see distributors in common conspiracy with the exhibitors to rob the producers by showing false returns at the theatres. And these days even those distributors who were once considered reliable paymasters cannot be trusted to honour their obligations seeing the number of cheques that bounce back right in the midst of a production.

After all this, one could turn round and be justified in asking: "Why do we need the distributors?" Mr. S. S. Vasan of Gemini answered this question by opening his own distribution offices in all the important circuits of India.

The third curse of our film industry—and an inescapable one—is the exhibitor. That is the man who is directly in contact with the consumer of our film product—the filmgoer. In this species we find perhaps the worst scums that burden the earth. Perfectly unscrupulous, supremely arrogant and rudely dishonest, the average exhibitor in India is perhaps the greatest criminal found on earth. There are a few exceptions but they only prove the rule. These exhibitors rob the producer, rob the distributor and rob the Government and they do it so consistently that they have come to discover virtue in their consistency.

And it is on the robbings of these exhibitors that the entire economic structure of the Indian film industry is built. It is from these robbings that the exhibitor gives advances and deposits to the distributor which the distributor in turn gives to the producer for producing a picture. The producer thus gets back his own stolen wealth as a genuine loan and in coming back to its owner the film rupee completes its vicious circle.

Some time back at a social function, we asked ten leading producers to name one honest exhibitor they knew. For a good half an hour everyone of them genuinely tried to think of at least one honest cinema owner in his long experience. They soon gave up the mental strain. Not one of them could name an honest exhibitor. That is the prestige our exhibition trade is enjoying after nearly half-a-century of show business.

With the Indian film industry abounding in such blood-suckers, pimps and dishonest scoundrels what chance has the film producer to survive? And yet the producer is the goose that lays the golden egg. Without him there would be no motion pictures to finance, distribute or exhibit.

The menace of these parasites has been a chronic one. In good old days when a motion picture cost much

An office can be turned into a devil's workshop if one is lucky enough to have a charming secretary like Kuldip Kaur. Kuldip has ideas which are not strictly official and when at the other end of those ideas she finds a booby like Kamal Kapoor things become exciting in "Miss Coca Cola". Let us hope Kamal is not left holding the bottle.

less to make and brought in huge returns, producers could afford to feed these parasites. But in these days with pictures costing more and more money every day and bringing in less and less returns, there is no place for ruthless parasites in the industry.

With over three hundred producers, most of them irresponsible adventurers, running amuck in the country, it is useless to appeal to the producers to unite and face the problem of the parasites squarely. Even in trying to unite the producers have recently multiplied their trade associations and exposed to the world the hatred and jealousies they nurse among themselves. Most of the meetings, which these producers hold, are used either for abusing one another or for picking up the blackmarketing technique from others.

As the film industry supplies an important need of our national existence—entertainment of millions with instruction—it is time the Government did something to help our industry. We need only two things from the Government: finance for production on normal banking terms and nationalization of our theatres.

Financing a score of leading producers from a Government-controlled bank will break the superfluous link of the distributor and save the producer anything from 20% to 50% of the takings.

Nationalization of the theatres will automatically guarantee a certain standard of honesty and prevent the wholesale robbing which is being indulged in at present. Our theatres can be nationalized because exhibition is a mechanical business involving no creative effort or individual freedom of expression in art or entertainment.

We realize that nationalization of the exhibition trade is not a happy suggestion in a secular democracy with several fundamental freedoms. But when we suggest this we ask for a curb on chronic criminals, for our exhibition trade as it exists today is a national crime—more heinous and degenerate than alcoholism.

Some drastic measures are immediately needed to put our film industry on its feet again. All that the Government should remember while initiating any new measures is that the feet of the industry are found at the end of the producers' legs and not at the end of their own.

"Girnar",
Bombay,
20-7-1955.

Baburao Patel.

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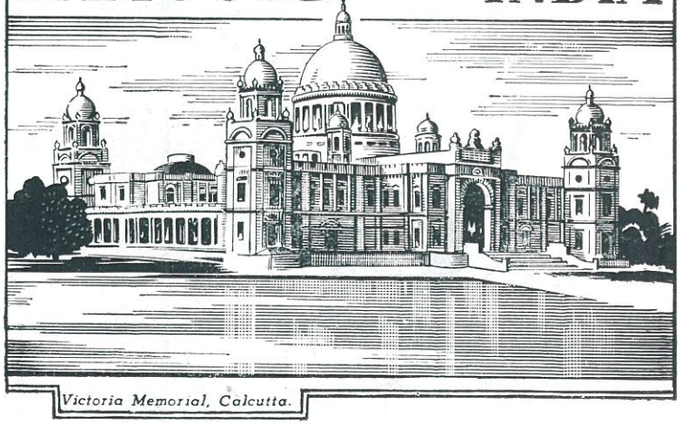

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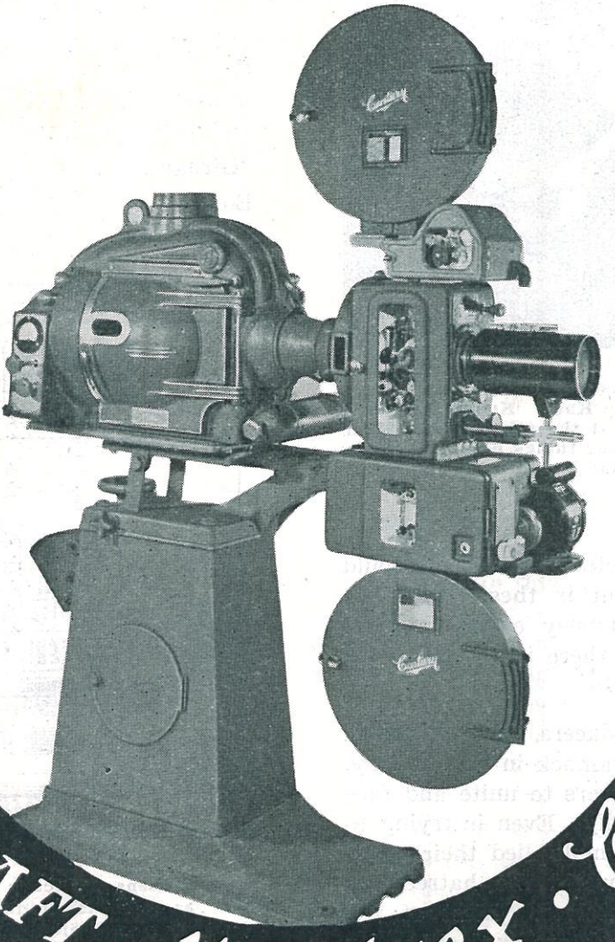

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(In this section, the editor himself replies to queries from the readers. As thousands of letters are received every month—some anxious and several frivolous—it is neither possible nor convenient to attend to all. Selected letters are usually treated in an informative and humorous strain and no offence is meant to anyone.)

This one is apparently overfed and needs a lot of slimming before she can be induced to take life more seriously. Too much of chocolates and milk products make women insensitive to romance. And still Ranjana Shukla, being primarily a film artiste, brings some new thrills to the screen in "Chaar Deewaren", a social theme.

M. G. SOMAN (Amravati)

Are there no chimpanzees in India?

There are but like Congressmen they only clap and scratch and don't act. That is why Vasan had to spend Rs. 80000|- and bring one from Hollywood for his "Insaniyat". He wanted a chimp without Congress inhibitions.

What do you think of Nehru's grand welcome in Russia?

Didn't he have an equally grand circus show in America? What happened afterwards? All bridegrooms are "Ek Din Ka Sultans".

Why is Pran fond of football?

All henpecked people like football. What they imagine at home they get a chance to do in the field.

MISS M. BHANDARE (Bombay)

What is flattery?

Flattery is the sugar which makes the brain diabetic.

Once I was caught between two boys in a bus?

That was a boy too many. Insurance companies don't take the risk when there is only one boy in the landscape.

Goggles?

This is scrutiny without detection.

Ballroom dance is nothing but mere sexual attraction. What have you to say?

As an onlooker I don't find anything sexually attractive in a ballroom dance though it might provide some sexual irritant to the partners in embrace.

What is pride in an actress?

That is her religion.

MANOHAR M. (Simla)

Why are the politicians generally devoid of conscience?

Politics is lip-service, conscience is a heartache. No one seeks pain by choice.

Does a dog ever eat a dog?

Hunger has neither eyes nor scruples. It is a blind fire.

Russians are said to be quiet workers?

In prisons you cannot indulge in brawls of democracy.

How old is this world?

It is as young as you are. Not a day older!

Is it possible to get heavenly things on earth?

There are those beautiful bipeds called women. They sometimes give you a glimpse of heaven.

How is sex transacted in upper society?

They dance over it in the ballroom and quarrel over it in the bedroom.

How do you welcome the recent victory of Conservatives in England?

It has delayed the nationalization of women.

Does one become weary even by winking?

When there is no bite at the hook even the worm gets tired, leave alone the angler.

What is death?

Death is a virtue which strikes a person once and makes him a saint for eternity.

Stateless persons! What an irony?

There are many homeless in their own homeland. Isn't that a greater tragedy?

What do the traitors earn?

Sometimes the ransom of a whole race. In treachery nations are sold very cheap.

Everybody is against me in my office. What shall I do?

Stand before your mirror and practise smiling. After a fortnight you will take your smile to the office. Then report to me the miracle. No one has yet frowned on a smiling man.

What has our Prime Minister brought back from Russia?

Photographs for the family album.

When does a fact look cold?

After a ballroom dance. Nothing can heat her up.

Do the ruins also look romantic?

If their history has been written in tears and not in blood.

Is it possible to pull on without money?

No! Even Gandhiji who adopted poverty required a lot of money every day to remain poor.

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Are there any stamp collectors in India, who as is the case in Germany, run after every new issue like mad men?

We have plenty of those and some more who get themselves stamped out of existence by rushing to Kumbh Melas.

MRS. T. SAMEER (Colombo)

What is the parallel in history of Shri V. K. Krishna Menon?

You have a wide range of choice from Jesus' Peter down to Gandhiji's goat.

K. K. MAHROTRA (Simla)

Is marriage a necessity these days?

Its solemnization or abrogation brings revenue to the state and helps our socialistic pattern of society.

J. U. NATHAN (Madras)

Will not rice plus eggs be a good dish for India's 'Annapoornas'?

Eggs plus beer is the diet of warriors—past, present and future.

Do you still play the old game, sir, of attracting beautiful girls?

I am a cultural relic. How can I give up an old game in these days of our cultural renaissance?

G. V. RAMA RAO (Eluru)

What do you think of Bulganin's speech during Nehru's visit to Russia?

That is an ancient speech which we have heard through ages. Hospitality has boring phrases.

A. W. SAMUEL (Meerut)

Isn't Usha Kiran a very sweet woman?

She is a fine artiste but success seems to have given her gas in the head. For that her doctor husband has no medicine.

How to lift Anglo-Indian girls?

A cycle is the cheapest crane used. A Cadillac is the easiest one.

S. D. SHUKLA (Kanpur)

Do you honestly believe that a woman is like a snake? Is there no difference?

There is. One uses its stomach to crawl, the other uses her back to crawl.

M. W. SITLANI (Hong Kong)

What is a pawnshop?

A pawnshop is an oxygen station between two deaths.

Don't you ever take a holiday?

Doing so will hurt my creditors. They expect me to work hard and pay them back. I am not as lucky as Ahmed Abbas to leave the creditors behind in a hot country and fly away to a cold one.

S. LAL (Fiji)

I get angry and say and do things which I regret afterwards. How can I control my temper?

Bhagwan refuses to become old. Producers now call him Master Bhagwan, even though he has two chins and three abdomens. Watch him do his antics again in "Unchi Haveli", evidently a costume tale.

Anger is the blush of the devil which saints avoid. As you are not a saint keep the homeopathic drug Chamomilla 1000 handy and take 4 pills whenever your kettle begins to boil.

MISS P. J. MEHTA (Bombay)

Why should not all of us help one another?

We should but when Nehru tries that, the Communists help themselves to the spoils of this game.

Does murder always speak?

It does but the courts are often deaf to the truth which a corpse tells. They want the lies of the living to punish the guilty. In human justice truth has to be extracted from a mass of lies.

Why do the Chinese want their population to increase still further?

In another ten years they will need some for exporting to Burma, Indo China, Malaya and India. Export trade always pays well.

Are journalists very jolly fellows?

Those who live on coffee get constipated and constipation has no smiles.

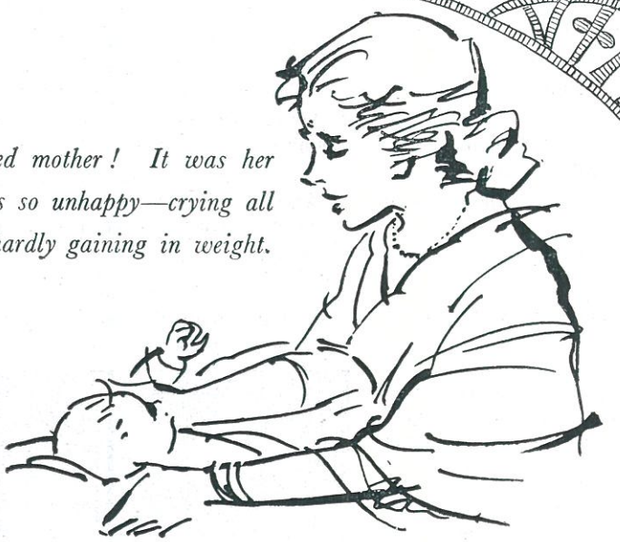
Why do you need money?

To buy my right to live on this planet.

How to be happy though poor?

By being stupid in addition to being poor.

How should widows be treated?



She was such a worried mother! It was her first baby—and he was so unhappy—crying all the time—hardly gaining in weight.

One day, she asked advice from a friend who had a happy, healthy baby! Incredible that he should be the same age as her poor child!

"I give my baby Glaxo" said the friend. "Glaxo is pure, nourishing milk-food to which Vitamin D has been added to build strong bones and teeth; and iron to enrich the blood".

That very day the mother bought 'Glaxo'. Look at him now. He's wonderfully happy! Sleeps so well! Gains steadily in weight—thanks to 'Glaxo'.

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G. 8

If old and useless they should be lowered into graves, if young and useful, they should be thrown into new beds.

Do you believe in steady married life?

I have been married 33 years.

What do you think of a husband who worships his wife?

A great believer in God, because he is worshipping the invisible virtue.

Do you wish your wife to be above suspicion like Caesar's?

No! A little suspicion adds spice to married life.

Is it true that the poor are more honest than the rich?

That is the Communist propaganda. It is easier for the rich to be honest while the poor have more reason to be otherwise. But honesty being an inherited virtue, money has little to do with it.

Have you ever seen through a key-hole?

I am too tall for it. They don't fix key-holes six feet high.

Are your intentions strictly honest when you call a beautiful woman your sister?

Helplessness is always an honest intention.

Can you state definitely your stand on divorce?

What is the use of standing on a thing that has no legs in my case? My partners still quote the law made by Sita and and Savitri.

Are you good at figures?

At 52 I usually see figures with curves subtracted. One doesn't feel like adding them up.

Is there anything I can do to help you?

That is a dangerous ambition, Perin. Don't flirt with the idea ever again.

V. S. BARVE (Indore)

I saw a cobra in my dream, ready to attack me.

Intention is not a crime. The cobra is acquitted.

MRS. K. BAHREE (Neoli)

Why are American guns, tanks and planes aimed at India's belly?

On the other side of Pakistan is the Arabian Sea. Americans are not yet big enough to frighten the sea.

S. PASSPORTWALA (Rangoon)

Here in Rangoon a building was purchased for Gandhi Memorial but instead of using it as a memorial hall, it is turned into a motor showroom?

Isn't that the correct use of a building named after our Bania saint? Gandhiji never lost sight of profits even in politics.

D. K. DARWHEKAR (Nandura)

We call the city of Bombay as "Bombay, the beautiful". What do they call Delhi?

Delhi, the devil's workshop!

What sort of sex-appeal has Geeta Bali?

She seems to have developed a special appeal for greenhorns these days. The girl has always been versatile.

What exercise does Begum Para take regularly?

She seems to be on patrol duty these days guarding the interests of married old actors. That girl has rare social instincts.

If only I had money?

Don't steal my sigh!

Is Usha Kiran proud of her husband?

Flirting is a natural virtue with women. They can never do anything without giving you just one more look to see whether your heart is fluttering properly. Shakila is a great one at this game. She has a field day in "Shahi Chor" where she steals million of hearts with her eyes alone without using her heart.

Well, she carries him around as a mascot. Only a proud wife does that.

What is that which Mahatma Gandhi couldn't teach Pandit Nehru?

The secret of leadership! Gandhiji respected his lieutenants and made them leaders. Nehru has turned our leaders into schoolroom monitors.

V. N. SRIVASTAVA (Lucknow)

What is the next move of Dr. Keskar?

He is now making his face popular in the newsreels. Let us hope he succeeds in becoming another Nehru.

MRS. PRAKASH (New Delhi)

What happens when Pandit Nehru sneezes?

Krishna Menon gets pneumonia.

Can't you suggest any post for Indira Gandhi?

She will soon kick Amrit Kaur out.

Some women in New Delhi are seen these days wearing small underwears and no petticoats below their saris. Why?

They are probably asking for closer examination. Censorship is in vogue these days.

Any outstanding quality of Mr. Sood?

He smiles where others would rush to murder. Sood has a saint's patience.

What impresses an American most when he comes to see India?

The beggars! They ask for Marshall Aid with open arms.

How do you like the new series of the Indian stamps?

Our stamps are beautiful but our postal service is ugly.

For what quality of his did Mahatma Gandhi like Maulana Azad?

Maulana's Urdu accent hypnotized the Bania. Gandhiji knew that no one from Kathiawar could ever speak like that in a thousand years.

What is the ideal month for planning a visit to Bombay?

With Prohibition all months have become ideal these days. But you can risk it in December as it is a month of risks for the bootleggers.

What is India doing in Kashmir?

Running a boarding and lodging business on a nationalized scale.

Isn't Master Tara Singh mad?

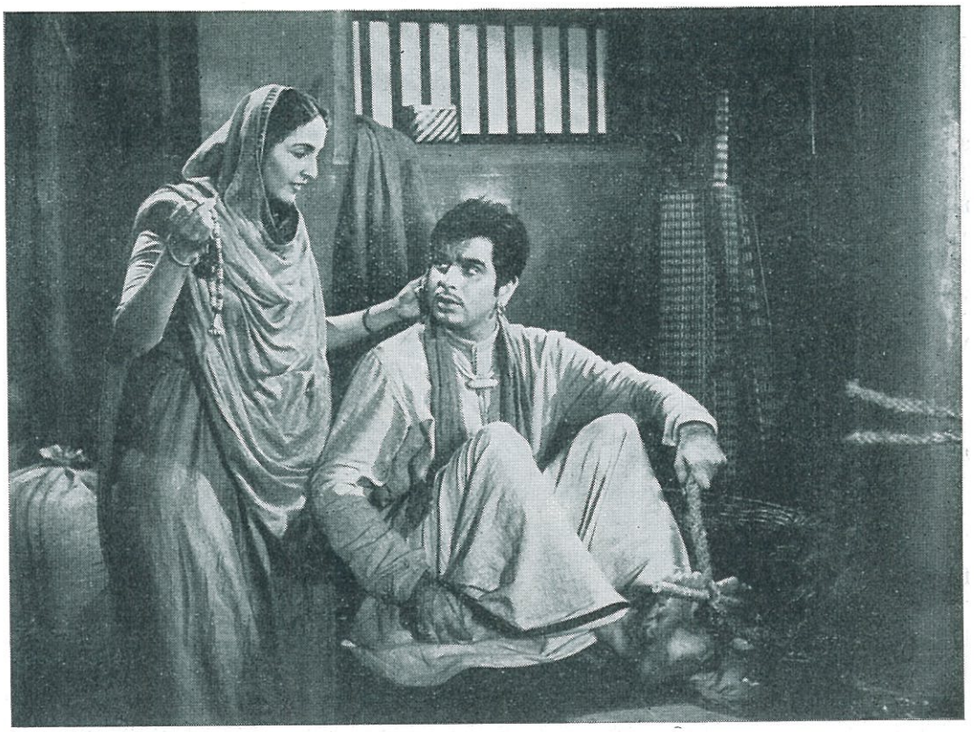
We mustn't say that. That will make Punjab a lunatic asylum.

T. A. RAMANATHAN (Calcutta)

What do empty hands contain?

Itch or prayer! It is a matter of character.

When did C. D. Deshmukh become an optimist?



That is what Dilip Kumar, the popular play-boy of the screen, has been wanting for a long time—someone to pull his ear in time. Shobhana Samarth seems to ask him, "Now which is the girl you have been chasing?" And Dilip wonders whether the game is that of chasing or being chased. The problem is solved in Gemini's great screen classic, "Insaniyat", produced and directed by S. S. Vasan.

The day he married.

A second reading of "filmindia" throws more light. Why does it not happen in the first reading?

Your thinking chamber is too dark. It needs two candles.

K. RAMA (Bombay)

Knowing fully well that I am a married woman, a Muslim goonda is after me. Tell me what should I do?

Where is the Hindu 'goonda' you married? Ask him to protect you.

What happens when bootleggers meet Morarji Desai?

Morarji probably gets a few garlands and the bootleggers get a few smiles. That establishes co-existence.

If you happened to visit Pakistan what will be the outcome?

I might be sent back like Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

If Pandit Nehru resigns?

Now don't lend your hope to the prayers of some top Congressmen. Let us have Nehru as long as he lasts.

D. P. BALI (Jullundur)

If Nargis is thrown before a lion, what would Raj Kapoor do?

He would run home and tell his wife Krishna. The Kapoors never enter lion-cages. They dance outside.

DR. M. SUMITRA BAI (Madras)

The world is a pageant to a painter and a song to a poet. What is it to a politician?

A stage, my dear, a stage on which he makes many faces and speeches to bring home the tragedy to the people.

MISS S. THADANI (Bombay)

If my heart were a tablet, what would you write on it?

I would sleep under it and ask you to write the epitaph.

MRS. K. W. LAHORI (Poona)

I intend to celebrate your 54th birthday by lighting 54 candles on a big cake on 4th April. How about coming down and cutting it yourself?

My 54th birthday is far off still. Don't be in a hurry because the candles on a birthday cake are lighted by God.

MISS N. G. JOHN (Bangalore)

Who is Renu Maker?

That is a smile in spring waiting for the sunshine of success.

Is weeping an art?

Not these days! Glycerine has taken the heart out of a tear.

H. M. KASKAR (Cape Town)

Do you admire Vinoba Bhave?

I have always admired odd people. Vinoba is the oddest of them all.

Why is your "filmindia" so popular even in other countries of the world?

It gives a glimpse of future India—a look hidden behind several Five-Year Plans.

L. P. NAIDU (Masulipatam)

I think you are one of the wonders of the world?

I have heard that before but I don't get any tourists visiting me. That is a pity.

What is the worst disease that a woman suffers from?

Mirror is the one she likes most and a husband is another she tolerates most. A woman is a chronic patient between the two.

M. L. DHAR (New Delhi)

Suppose a young woman from Mars lands in your bedroom at night and wakes you up gently, what will be your reaction towards her?

When it is a young woman I don't worry about her residential address. A young woman is a planet by herself and worth a flight.

Why does love make men idle?

Love consumes many units of energy and leaves a man breathless. Breathless men need rest.

R. GUPTA (Khurja)

Why are Pakistanis so shy these days?

The new bride, Aliya Sadi, is responsible for their present spell of modesty.

MRS. P. SUBRAMANIAM (Dombivli)

Is Mrs. Vijaylakshmi Pandit a hard-working woman?

Those who work for themselves always work hard.

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MISS S. DURGABAI (Hyderabad-Dn.)

Will a time come when every Indian will be able to purchase a motorcar?

You can't buy a car with Congress President Dhebar prescribing a maximum income of Rs. 250|- a month.

G. N. PAI (Bombay)

If Nira is filtered what will be the residue?

I found chalk, though Government called it Calcium.

How can one make the best use of his lips?

Keep them closed. Stupidity escapes through open lips.

If our actresses receive military training?

Our next war will look like a cricket 'tamasha'.

Is Morarjibhai honest enough to own up to his own mistakes?

Men from Bulsar never confess because their god is framed in their mirror.

D. BALAKRISHNAN (Trivandrum)

Karanjia and Karaka are like poles?

Yes, Russian and American poles with India between them!

K. K. CHOPRA (New Delhi)

I gather you read religious books these days?

I want to find out whether those old boys knew any trick which would help me to recover my dues from our film producers.

S. M. GOYAL (Ajmer)

How could J. C. Jain manage to rise so high?

Jain is not rising high. He is merely climbing a ladder to put the Dalmia poster high.

Next Five-Year Plan is in the making. What has the first one achieved?

It has made us less sensitive to extravagance.

S. SAMPATH (Madras)

Which actress is seen most often in slacks?

It is always the one with a bad figure.

What type of mark has the British Boot left behind?

From the biscuit to the bed everything is still stamped British in our cities.

To which God does Nehru pray daily?

The one he sees in his mirror.

Why do you always pretend that you are not well-to-do?

Shall I send you a list of my creditors?

An Indian home is a complete community project with the man and his wife, little ones and the old ones—all dependent on the soil and the seasons of their land. It is more a life of sighs than of smiles and yet millions of such homes have made this ancient country what it is today. Nargis runs a typical farmer's home with her characteristic artistry in "Mother India", a screen classic in Gevacolour, produced and directed by Mehboob.

Y. S. GOEL (Lucknow)

They say that one gets peace of mind and soul by embracing Christianity?

Quite possible, because you lose your mind and soul to the church and then search for them the rest of your life. What you lose stops hurting.

T. C. THAKER (Ahmedabad)

Does moonlight appeal to you?

I have neither age nor leisure to commune with the moon. My romance begins and ends in the light of the table-lamp.

A. D. BHARWANI (Djakarta)

What does a shave mean to Babu Purshottamdas Tandon?

That would be removing mythology from his personality.

Why are they scared of you?

No one is scared of me. They are scared of their own skeletons.

Who is this Humayun Kabir?

That is Maulana's thinking box.

When does a choli blush?

When its imagination is not stretched and its complexion grows wrinkles.

What do angels drink these days?

Illicit liquor! And they fly heavenward.

What is J. C. Jain's secret hope?

Last time when he lunched with me he told me that he would retire to his village and become another Mahatma. That is some ambition for a Dalmia biscuit baby.

What does K. A. Abbas possess?

A talisman that takes him travelling all over the world leaving his worries at home.

What has Ismail Noor taught Kardar?

That a brother-in-law has to be given a continuous dowry to keep a sister married.

What are the most dangerous diseases in India today?

Income tax, sales tax, wheel tax, entertainment tax and a hundred others! Their corpses walk but never smile.

V. PAL (New Delhi)

One of our professors is 95% deaf. What can we do?

Inform Nehru immediately. He needs another minister. 95% is high scoring.

V. RASTOGI (New Delhi)

I don't believe in God. I worship nature?

Then to whom do you attribute the beauty and harmony of design in nature? Nature is one expression of Divinity, you are another.

R. SAMSON (Calcutta)

Suppose I drop in Bombay, whom do you think I will meet first?

Indian husbands in the villages rarely get an opportunity to see their brides before the honeymoon night. And when they discover something as stunningly charming as Nargis, like Raj Kumar, they believe neither their luck nor their eyes. Watch these two portraying a true village life in "Mother India", an elemental classic of the soil in Gevacolour produced and directed by Mehboob.

Morarji's Prohibition policeman! That is our chief of protocol who introduces you to the state by going through your pockets and luggage.

V. M. RADHAKRISHNAN (Bombay)

Why don't you throw open "Girnar" to visiting foreigners and show them how hospitable we are?

I don't get a share of the Entertainment Tax which the Government collects.

I wish to walk in your shadow constantly?

Choose a Minister's shadow, you will at least get insurance business. When you want shade, always choose an apple tree.

I can smell only liquor everywhere?

Lend your nose to Morarji. His big nose has stopped functioning.

C. H. BHATIA (Bombay)

Why can't we stop tears?

There is so much to weep over. When God drops corpses in the cradles, what else can you do?

D. N. SUMBBY (Bangalore)

Can a film female be a dependable wife?

That is the most risky gamble in the world. A million to one chance!

R. N. SHIVPURI (Saharanpur)

It is easier to make people cry than laugh?

No! People have to pay when they either cry or laugh. So they remain sullen.

"Entertainment tax is sucking the life-blood of the film industry." How?

An article that is taxed heavily has few buyers.

If Aga Khan dies?

The sun will still rise in the east.

R. L. NAKRA (Jullundur)

Do you know any sane Muslim living in Pakistan?

All the dumb ones are sane.

J. G. SAMBRANI (Bombay)

The superintendent of our hostel provokes everyone of us for nothing. Kindly suggest a remedy?

Try "filmindia" on him. A three-month course might give him some sense of humour.

V. N. NARAYANA (Howrah)

How many Five-Year Plans are going to be manufactured during the regime of Nehru?

The second Five-Year Plan will be his last one.

Do Venus Bannerjee's exercises help men also?

They have cured the stiff legs of many railway officers.

P. R. DAS (Rangoon)

Pakistan wants war or peace with India?

It wants profits of both but India is neither at war nor at peace, being neutral. That is their quarrel.

JAI NARAYAN (Bareilly)

What is the necessity of two Deputy Ministers in the Defence Ministry?

One hears for the Defence Minister, the other walks for him.

Z. AJMERI (Bombay)

What is Pati Pooja?

Feeding the brute.

What do you call a man who lives on his wife's earnings?

Star-husband! Film folks are a polite people. They never use abusive words like "pimp", "procurer", etc.

Who is S. M. S. Naidu?

That is something easier seen than described. Naidu is a profit-calculating machine from the south.

I. V. MAHBUBANI (Bombay)

When is a girl a society girl?

When she leaves footprints on the ballroom floor.

P. M. BAILEY (Meerut)

Who, in your opinion, is a greater artiste between Dilip Kumar and Prithviraj Kapoor?

Dilip Kumar! Prithvi has lost what little art he had once.

V. A. BEHARI (Kanpur)

Mr. Patel, tell us the services of the Congress for India?

Read Dhebar's fairy tales in the newspapers.

H. J. L. PAIS (Bombay)

What does Nehru do as soon as he returns from his tours?

He reads the new page in his biography to his yes-men. Applause ends the meeting.

Our J. C. Jain also issues statements on American prisoners in China?

And doing so he delayed the release of the poor prisoners.

What is your opinion of Frenchmen at the moment?

They are going through a spasm of political wisdom at the moment.

Has Stalin gone to hell or heaven?

He is still a prisoner of the Communists. They have turned him into an exhibit.

MRS. P. BALASUBRAMANIAN (Mannargudi)

Why did South Indian film actresses suddenly agitate against shooting after 10 p.m.?

They probably didn't like their own schedules being disturbed by the producers.

L. PUNJWANI (Kuala Lumpur)

When my friend was single, he looked very happy. Now he is double and looking unhappy. Why?

Now two people eat and one has to digest for both.

A. KHAN (Bombay)

What is the relation between J. C. Jain and Kamini Kaushal?

They were co-educated under Rummy Sood.

A. R. SAIT (Madras)

Prohibition in "Kafir land" and no Prohibition in Mussalman land. How come? Are the Pakistanis heading towards "Barbadi"?

A secular state can adopt the good things of Islam without blushing even if the Pakistanis call us kafirs.

S. MOHIDEEN (Kaveripak)

Do bookworms make good wives?

Yes, the bird knows where to find the worm when hungry.

T. C. BHATIA (Kanpur)

You look to be a bald head?

Look to be? I am your prospective Prime Minister in that respect.

M. S. VISVANATHAN (Poona)

When does wisdom wait for recognition?

Wisdom that waits for a salute lacks profundity.

How should the age of women be assessed?

It is a risky calculation seeing that you sometimes discover delightful teens in late forties.

Who is Mulk Raj Anand?

An intellectual relaxation of India's rich men and a coffee-house hero of struggling writers.

What happened to the Bhangi colony after Gandhiji?

Another de luxe "Bhangi" from Saurashtra seems anxious to establish himself there. He has begun lecturing now. Let us wait and see when he reaches the prayer stage.

What follows "Ladies and gentlemen"?

Heaping of I's on the heads of You's.

How long do the poor perspire?

Only till they get the meal. Those who perspire for something beyond a mere meal don't remain poor.

What happened to Kamal Amrohi?

He married Meena Kumari. Since then nothing has happened to him.

Egypt has pyramids! India?

India has masquerade pads. We are better off. Pyramids house the dead ones, we have something living behind them.

What is hard cash?

Only crisp currency notes in these days of deficit finance.

Widows at eighteen! Pitiable?

Why? Who stops them from marrying again?

Nadira looks old?

Her face was born old. Rest of the parts, however, are quite young. An old bonnet does not necessarily mean that the engine is old.

When does one and one make none?

When you set out to give a practical proof of the birth-control theorem.

What is perfume?

Perfume is the vapour of seduction. It often tells you what is boiling inside the kettle.

Isn't Nehru one in a million?

There is only one Nehru in the entire world. That is one in 2500 millions.

What is S. Mukherjee aiming at these days?

He is out to build a celluloid empire with a Marwari's gold bricks. Let us pray for his success. He will need the prayers.

You can't say whether this one is an Arab or a Caucasian. It is enough to know that she is a woman. Watch Shakila tantalising in "Shahi Chor", a thrilling romance.

Morarji calls Prohibition a success?

One lie doesn't make him a bad minister.

Ministers have folded hands?

How else can you hold power firmly?

Thousands of orphans die unwept?

Orphans never die, they disappear. Only those die who live.

If a star starts vomiting on the sets?

Everyone looks accusingly at the producer.

When does a politician give a genuine smile?

Politicians are usually mean and selfish people. They never smile to make others happy. They smile only to make their own faces more presentable.

When does Prithviraj blush?

Never! He makes even the stage rouge go pale.

What was Adam's age when he met Eve first?

He was under the "U" certificate. After the meeting the censors labelled him "Adult".

Amrit Kaur must have been attractive once?

Those were British days. She stepped into freedom with wrinkles and lent age to our present.

Define Lady Mountbatten?

That is the Commonwealth necktie free India wears round its neck. Its purple and blue colours are supposed to lend imperial dignity to our republic.

Trilok Kapoor seems to be a very quiet man.

Trilok has a jewel of a wife who doesn't believe in cheap show and noise.

Whom does Motilal love most?

Himself! He makes a mistake sometimes and loves his dog and that is also when he sees his own image in the dog's eyes.

What was his flute to Lord Krishna?

Air-raid siren with which he collected his cows.

What was Kurukshetra?

That was a cradle of conflict in which posterity got a glimpse of the baby called "Peace".

Can the poor bless the rich?

How do the rich become rich then? Not with God's blessings!

Have any of our actresses had twins?

So many times, when the producer and the director collide.

Dead bodies stink!

Yes, they have impatience.

Sunday, sir?

A day for free education.

When does a 'sethji' weap?

When his interest eats his capital. I recently found a Marwari 'sethji' torturing others and himself weeping. His capital was eclipsed by the Islamic crescent.

Do eggs improve one's health?

A thin man's health, not a fat man's!

When do windows attract?

When they frame a smiling portrait of youth.

When are saints intoxicated?

When wise men become fools and rush for boons and blessings.

What is bank balance without brains?

There can't be a bank balance without brains. Money needs brains either to earn it or keep it.

S. J. RELE (Bombay)

If we lose Kashmir?

We'll lose a headache.

Your face is your fortune

SMALL-POX, SCARS, WOUNDS, TATTOO have marred your majestic beauty and handicapped your progress in society. Here comes the healing treatment of Blosofine, by Drs. Eller & Wolf, U.S.A.

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For whom are the statues waiting?

For the great to die. They feel so lonely.

Why does Nargis look glum these days?

She is making up her mind to accept Dilip Kumar as her son in "Mother India".

Do you hate Dalmia?

A man who owns J. C. Jain deserves sympathy.

How can you see your back?

I read the minds of the producers. They fill their minds only when they see my back.

I am a pessimist in the morning and an optimist in the evening?

That is the philosophy of pimps, prostitutes and profligates. Honest men hitch their wagon to the sun.

Girls never understood what I was up to?

Girls never waste thought on sissies.

Do men at fifty wink?

They do but the world calls it palsy. Thus an intention is turned into a disease.

Has Pandit Nehru a sense of humour?

Only when he is in good humour.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur recently said that football is not a game for women?

If she has said so, then an old spinster's opinion on football must be accepted without demur.

Is death a defeat?

An escape from taxes and worries is a victory.

What can I share with a beggar?

Congress democracy which promises much and delivers little. It is one thing you can share without losing anything.

M. GURUSWAMY (Madras)

When will you come on tour to South India?

Let Vasan finish with his chimpanzee in "Insaniyat" before he takes the "gorilla" on tour.

P. MADHUSUDHAN RAO (Bangalore)

"When you are in Rome, behave like a Roman". Did you behave like that when you were in Rome?

I behaved like an Indian. And after that Romans cultivated some respect for Indians.

H. B. PRABHU (Bombay)

Is Sardar Patel forgotten by the people?

Not by the people but by those who once lived in his shadow.

What did Pandit Nehru discover in Russia?

That the Communists had established a welfare state without Prohibition.

M. G. CHAUDHARY (Bombay)

Is Nehru's foreign policy paying us?

No, we are paying heavily for the travels and the conferences. Our prestige is in our geographical position.

What is Kardar's latest hobby?

Telling us fairy tales from his past. The man seems to have lost his sense of future.

E. R. SRINIVASAN (Hyderabad-Dn.)

What is deficit financing?

B.O.A.C.'s "Speedbirds" have got Yeoman Warder Twyman of the Tower of London interested in speed work. From left to right: Teresa Hall of Johannesburg, Alice Jansen of Bombay and Neroli Corrigan of Sydney. These air-hostesses landed in London for the B.O.A.C. "Miss Speedbird" competition. Doesn't the B.O.A.C. hold a competition for speed writing journalists?

That is feeding optimism with hope and producing a dream.

S. NALINI (Madras)

I am going to marry shortly. What is your advice?

That is one suicide in which people live. Commit it.

MISS S. SHANTI (Vishakapatnam)

Will Chacha Patel ogle at an ugly duckling?

At 52 that is an unnecessary strain on the eyes. My eye-specialist has warned me against such exercises.

R. JANARDHAN (Bombay)

If I wink at Morarji?

He will wink back. That man must have his last word.

What does a Kapoor require?

An audience! And then the theatricals begin.

Is there God in Russia?

After Nehru's visit the people of Russia will have one. The politicians will still have the mummies of Lenin and Stalin for annual prayers.

A. L. SETHI (Khargpur)

What do some of our Anglo-Indian girls mean by winking?

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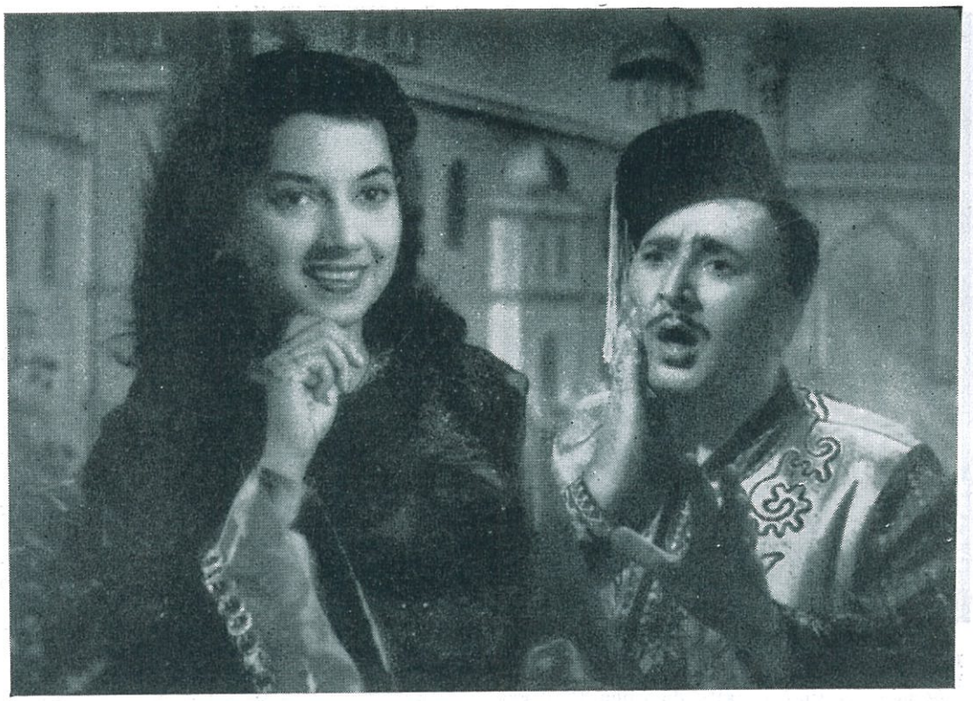

Men do many things to get the woman in good humour. It is an effort of days for the bliss of a moment. But that is what poets call romance. Shakila and Jayant make a team in "Shahi Chor", a thrilling tale of love.

That is a silent prayer for an evening of dance and dinner.

R. L. NAKRA (Jullundur)

What do people generally talk in society—sense or nonsense?

Nonsense repeated too often is abuse.

K. B. NAIDU (B. R. Project)

Why do some girls prefer married men only?

A pickle has more taste than a green mango.

K. S. AIYAR (Bombay)

Bombay was once a fishing village.

S. K. Patil is still fishing in it.

KUMARI Y. POONIA (Jodhpur)

Why do we often look in the mirror?

To count the mistakes God made and to imagine the improvements we would have made in His place.

MISS U. PAI (Bombay)

D. G. Tendulkar of "Mahatma" fame says that the architecture of our new secretariat is philistine?

Architecture must be a milestone of the times we live in and not a tombstone of the past we have left behind. Then alone can it become a footprint of history for our future generations. I like our new secretariat as a symbol of our architectural progress and I have read E. B. Havell more carefully than Tendulkar has done.

Has Kardar of the "High, Higher and Still Higher" motto stopped production?

No, he is still at it but he is nursing it as a family secret. He doesn't want to advertise his pictures because it probably hurts him to see crowds looking at his "family secrets". Usually, producers who go out of "filmindia" go out of news and business ultimately.

H. L. SETHI (New Delhi)

What is there in Pandit Nehru that attracts?

He has the face of a god and the smile of a goddess. What more does a god-loving humanity want?

Smile, please?

Who is paying for it?

How did the Nizams accumulate so much wealth?

He and his ancestors robbed the people.

Has Hollywood a social conscience?

Conscience cannot be a citizen of scoundrels' colony.

Raj Kapoor said in Russia, "There in U.S.A., they shook our hands, paid us compliments and talked about exchange of films. But it got no further than talk."

Wasn't that the truth? Does truth also give a man a suspicious character?

Did Nehru do the right thing in visiting Russia?

There is nothing wrong in a goodwill visit, but he chose the wrong time. An

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I am unemployed. What is your advice to me?

As long as there is a box of matches left to sell, why should you be unemployed? This is a world of salesmen who discover new wants every day. Be a salesman and make the world your pasture.

What is the new story about Dilip Kumar?

The old story is now in cold storage.

Chou says, "Mango is the fruit of paradise"?

Let us hope he doesn't pursue the fruit and reach the paradise.

T. K. KESWANI (Bombay)

Why did Gope become insolvent?

To cure the chronic insomnia of his creditors. Gope has always been a humanitarian.

I kill my enemy with kindness. What about you?

I kill my friends with criticism. I ignore my enemies.

MISS S. PUROHIT (Bombay)

Is it true that Snehaprabha Pradhan divorced Kishore Sahu?

That was when I was young. When were your born, kid? You seem to be a recent arrival.

P. R. PRASAD (Waltair)

I pity you Mr. Patel, for in fifty years from now there will be regular traffic between our planet and other planets?

Won't you need someone to receive you on the other planet? I'll meet you there.

K. G. MATHUR (Ghaziabad)

So many girls want to kiss you, many like to embrace you and thousands crave to meet you, but all this from a great distance. Why?

Ask our Railway Minister! Had I been an ancient monument the girls could have at least travelled at concession fares. Our Railway Minister doesn't seem to be interested in our tourist trade.

K. KUMAR (Ajmer)

If Nehru were 6' 4"?

His peace song would have failed. Doves must not look like eagles.

A. KRISHNAN (Madras)

India is going to produce tanks too?

Yes, for storing illicit liquor.

Deglamourized? No! Once in a while women like to keep their blush and powder away and look as they usually do when they get up with the sun. That is the time to see how much colour there is really in the peach. Meena Kumari brings some natural charm to the screen in "Bandish", a social theme.

S. S. OBEROI (Patiala)

Is Nargis as beautiful as I think?

Your thought is beautiful, for no woman is beautiful unless she is thought beautiful.

R. B. MISTRY (Bombay)

Who could be hiding a century-old whisky bottle in India?

You can find one in some Parsi home. Parsis like to pickle things.

R. SANKARANARASIMHAN (Madras)

What is lacking in Prem Nath's face?

Cunning! He has a rude and honest face.

V. S. KUMARULU (Masulipatam)

What do you do when a film actress suddenly embraces you and tries to kiss you?

Film actresses are usually very daring and unconventional but they have never risked this particular enterprise so far. They probably think that I'll run to Morarji for protection.

N. S. DASWANI (Kuala Lumpur)

16th February 1926. Do you know anyone else born on that date?

Oh, many, people with sensitive high-strung nature getting stomach trouble because of wrong company—lost souls constantly searching for the true mission in life, wasting money in useless generosity and purchasing ingratitude. They had ideals and imagination but not enough self-confidence to push themselves before the world. They lost their battles without fighting them.

A. N. NARAYANA RAO (Bangalore)

Which nation stands in splendid isolation today?

Switzerland! It doesn't speak and therefore doesn't get into trouble. It merely serves and collects the boarding and lodging bill. We could have done the same without all this deafening noise.

How are the film fugitives of India in Pakistan?

They are all starving.

PRIZES WINNERS FOR AUGUST

1st Prize to M. S. Visvanathan (Poona); 2nd Prize to Manohar M. (Simla); 3rd Prize to Miss P. J. Mehta (Bombay); 4th Prize to M. G. Soman (Amravati) and 10 consolation prizes to the following:—J. U. Nathan (Madras); S. Passportwala (Rangoon); M. Guruswamy (Madras); Miss S. Shanti (Vishakapatnam); A. W. Samuel (Meerut); Dr. M. Sumitra Bai (Madras); V. S. Kumarulu (Masulipatam); S. Parthasarathy (Madras); Kumari Y. Poonia (Jodhpur) and T. S. Raghavan (Bombay). Money orders and copies are being sent to all the prize winners.

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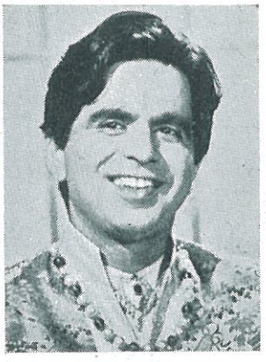

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If that is beauty then let us change the definition of the word. Human beings are never perfect but motion picture art should never point out their defects. Its art lies in concealing them. Sheila Ramani is evidently badly exposed in "Shahzada", an exciting romance.

Do you agree to the payment of alimony by women?

That is some hope for star-husbands.

MANOHAR M. (Simla)

If something happens to you?

You will know it in a day. I have earned a newspaper death.

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K. M. RAO (Calcutta)

What is your social status?

Critics have no social status. They have merely a precarious existence.

In which way, in your case, is the world going?

Round and round! Producers become insolvents and then become producers again till they become insolvents again and producers again. For us film folks the world is a grand merry-go-round.

What is it that you and I do not possess?

We have everything we want. The trouble starts when we ask for things others have got.

What do the Russians think of us?

They think we are good cuckoos.

S. PARTHASARATHY (Madras)

Is there any possibility of your coming over to Madras in the near future?

I am afraid of Vasan adding me to the star cast of "Insaniyat". That man has has brought even a monkey from Hollywood.

A. D. BHARWANI (Djakarta)

When do you hear the voice of God?

Every day when the ulcer in my stomach begins to pray loudly.

What is the only thing that hasn't changed in Bombay in the last ten years?

That thing is called Morarji Desai.

What is fascinating about Arabian Villa?

Nothing fascinating now! The Pathan has been guarding the girls too long. They attract only long-nosed Parsis now.

What does Habib Hussein boast of?

His skill on the chessboard of exhibition. You should see how he moves the pieces and keeps Mehboob, Kardar, Jalan and others guessing.

T. S. RAGHAVAN (Bombay)

Who has got more responsibility: you or your wife?

My wife! She has to manage a man of constantly changing hues. I have to manage a world of old deep dyes.

What are the future prospects of those working under you?

I solemnly promise them rest in heaven. What more do they want? Working under the Congress government people go to hell.

How is it that we do not celebrate Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Day on a grand scale even though he was called an 'Iron Man'?

We must not give jerks to Nehru's glorious biography with a wrong punctuation. Let Vallabhbhai lie dead for a few years more. The dead don't run away.

Have you done any sacrifice worth mentioning?

I didn't put the Gandhi cap on my head and become a Congress politician. How many people have done a greater sacrifice in this game of rich spoils?

Just define 'self-made man'?

One who succeeds in life without the Gandhi cap is a self-made man.

MISS V. CHAUDHARY (Bombay)

Has Pandit Nehru got a sense of humour?

He wouldn't have gone to Russia without having a sense of humour.

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The following prizes will be awarded every month for questions which are considered interesting or elicit interesting replies in the "Editor's Mail".

1st Prize: Rs. 100|-; 2nd Prize: Rs. 50|-; 3rd Prize: Rs. 30|-; 4th Prize: Rs. 20|- and 10 Consolation Prizes of one copy of "Grey Dust", each worth Rs. 10|-.

A reader can ask as many questions as he likes but those letters which bear the Priority Coupon will be answered first. A reader gets three coupons free per copy and he has therefore the chance to catch the bus thrice every month. Questions should be neatly written, or typed if possible, with some blank space left between two questions. It is in in this blank space that the editor writes his replies. Unless the letters are signed they won't be considered.

In awarding prizes, the editor's decision shall be final and absolutely binding and no correspondence will be entertained about the distribution of the prizes.

The names of the prize-winners will be announced in "filmindia" every month and the prize money will be remitted by money order while the copies of "Grey Dust" will be sent by registered post.

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When they begin to reveal folds, they reach an age when nothing really surprises them. And a married artiste is rarely surprised. She has, however, the inherent art to look surprised when ordered to do so. And that is what Usha Kiran is doing in a social drama called "Bahu".

CENSORS AND THE BOUNCING TWINS

The Central Board of Film Censors, since its inception in January 1951, is increasingly becoming a favourite topic of debate and controversy. It is receiving more space in newspapers than many other important Government departments. It is being talked about by even dumb M.P.'s who usually open their mouths only while eating or yawning. And film producers of course talk about it all the while and even carry its thoughts to their beds, whether single or double, licit or illicit.

It is not difficult to credit that during its four and a half years of existence, the Censor Board has worked hard, whether efficiently or erratically, strained its eyes staring at thousands of miles of celluloid, frequently glaring and sometimes winking at what it saw, and generally handled an unenviable job with steadfastness. It has also made a number of bitter and eloquent enemies and gained unpopularity with some who are quite vocal in their general denunciation of the institution.

The Board, however, does not have to worry much over its unpopularity count because it was not established to do popular work but to do useful and intelligent work, that is, to act as an overseer of moral, ethical and cultural tones of films and to prescribe only harmless and wholesome entertainment to the masses.

Thanks to "filmindia's" unrelenting campaign, as far as foreign pictures are concerned the Censor Board has done some fairly good work and produced some solid results. In 1951, the first year of its operation, the Board banned 5 foreign feature films. In 1952 it banned 18 foreign films. In 1953, 21 films. And last year, in 1954, as many as 38 foreign feature films were banned by the Board. It adds up to a total of 82 banned foreign films in four years—quite an impressive figure considering that before the establishment of the Central Censor Board, very rarely was a foreign film banned in India, though the majority of Hollywood films were no better in themes and content than they are today.

Most of the films banned in the last four years were found objectionable on the ground of crime, violence, decency or morality. And since most of these films were from America—only last year 31 of the 38 banned films being American—Hollywood has begun bewailing Indian censorship as the strictest in the non-totalitarian countries and has already started sending special prints to India or re-editing directions along with alternative shots to its Indian offices, anticipating trouble with the censors.

This is good work, though it could be still better, and is all to the credit of the Censor Board. The reputation of practising one of the strictest censorships in the world is also its laurel. There is no such thing as lenient censorship. There is either strict censorship, which means serving its purpose scrupulously and seeing to it that films do not violate the letter and spirit of its adopted code, or none at all.

They turn away just when a man wants to be sensible and serious. That puzzles the man. But women like puzzles. Look at Usha Kiran giving a cold ear to Chandrashekhar in "Awaaz", a social story.

There is, however, a lot of difference between strict censorship and stupid censorship. "Filmindia" has always campaigned the most for censorship, but for intelligent, enlightened censorship. And though we commend our censors' strictness, we wouldn't like them to be stupid and called as such. And yet much of the censorship as it is being practised from day to day with respect to Indian films, is characterized by fumbling and faddishness, caprice and stupidity. The censors' approach to assessing Indian films seems to be groping, erratic, lop-sided and inconsistent.

A study of their work so far gives the impression that leaving the question of the general tone of the film and the spirit of the code alone, they have fanatically busied themselves with the female form on the screen—with how it is clothed or unclothed or underclothed; how it is shaped and developed; how it turns and twists and shakes and undulates; how it contains curves and swellings, bulges and protrusions; and generally how it looks, whether moving or stationary, painted or sculptured, vertical or horizontal. And though the code only objects to the picture which "exhibits the human form, actually or in shadowgraphs in a state of nudity; or indecorously or suggestively clothed," the censors seem to have reached the conclusion that the mere sight of a well-developed female figure on the screen is an instance of indecorum and that any female figure which manages to proclaim its well-developed state from beneath its covering, is suggestively clothed. And in a majority of cases their eyes seem to be irritated and their scissors activated, only by female curves in Indian pictures.

In a rice-eating country like India with ancient traditions in female curves, this irritation of the censors raises new problems and levels our ancient traditions as it seeks to level the female figure. And the producer who, while referring to the censors' aversion to well-developed female figures, said that the time seems to have come when the producers will have to decide whether to take female artistes in their pictures at all, does not seem to be very far from the truth.

Here are a few samples of the cuts ordered by the censors during last couple of years.

In "Aurat Teri Yehi Kahani," the censors ordered to be deleted "the shots of the bust of the heroine Asha, when it is exposed due to the saree palla not covering the choli". According to the censors, a female bust covered by choli but not also covered by the saree palla is to be defined as an "exposed bust". And according to this definition a good teeming number of women in India go about with their busts "exposed".

In "Ameer", the censors cut "..... the inserts of the princess with her busts not properly covered by saree. The last pose of the sleeping princess when she raises her hands overhead". Raising hands overhead boosts the bust and that irritates our censors. So producers should note that raising hands overhead by female artistes is also a crime.

In "Pehli Jhalak", the cut order said: "Delete (Reel VIII)—All shots of emphasized bust of Beena with choli partly or wholly uncovered by odhni during the song Na maro najaria ke baan". A bust even partly uncovered by odhni is also, obviously, not to be tolerated. Beena in this picture was Vyjayantimala who, as everybody with a pair of eyes can realize, needs no "emphasizing" of her bust. Those are her mother's heirlooms.

In "Ghamand", in Reel I the censors ordered to be deleted "the shots of the lady in tight-fitting sweater type of frock when she is bringing water bucket, and when she bends down near the cot and afterwards stands straight as in all of these shots the contours of her busts are prominently emphasized". In a tight-fitting dress the contours of the bust will naturally be emphasized, but the censors think that is indecorous clothing. So the studio costumiers should be instructed to make only loose-fitting dresses for female artistes. Or better still film girls should wear their papa's overcoat. In the same picture were also deleted "the shots of Sheil on armchair when she is taking angadaai and when she sneezes" as well as "the shot of the dancer with her hands folded on the back of her head". Taking "angadaai", that is stretching oneself, may also be noted down by producers as a reprehensible movement by females.

In "Fareb", the censors drastically cut from Reels I, II, III and IX, "all shots of Poonam's bust in close-ups, mid-close, mid-shots from front and in profile, when she is dressed in choli and gagra without the odhni covering any part of her busts". But what was the choli doing if not covering her bust?

In "Meenar", in Reel VIII, 6 feet were ordered to be deleted from a song picturization with a female character, Roopa, "when she is running revealing movement of her bust". Producers should get female artistes' breasts cast in plaster before they are asked to do any running in order to ensure complete non-movement of the bust. If Director Sunny had done this, the censors would not have also deleted from his "Uran Khatola", "flashes of girls riding on horseback when their breasts are seen shaking". The censors evidently believe that the horse may trot and the riding bottom may bob but the breasts should not receive any vibrations.

In "Mashuqa" the censors deleted in Reel II, "shot of Bansi jumping with movements of bust up and down, and bust swaying by chorus". Bust swaying by chorus is a suggestive thing and deserves to be deleted, but where is a woman expected to leave her breasts when jumping up and down? Or is she not supposed to jump at all because her breasts, being a part of her, jump with her too?

In "Teen Tasveeren", the censors excised from Reel XIII, "two shots of Surekha gone mad, when her emphasized bust is seen after her sari has fallen down". The censors want even a mad character to walk about dressed primly and puritanically and it now seems that human madness will have to be portrayed on the screen making due allowance for the censors' madness.

In "Sangam", Reel II was shorn of "shots of Mangal's wife without odhni in her scene with Mangal, showing the rise and fall of her bust in the course of her breathing heavily and the preceding shots of profile of her bust uncovered by odhni". Heavy breathing causes the bust to rise and fall and that hurts the censors' eyes. Heavy breathing by females, therefore, becomes another crime according to the censors.

"Hanumanjanma" irritated the censors partly because of the "shot revealing Lalita's emphasized bust uncovered by odhni as she falls on the rock on being pushed back by Pawan". How a woman's odhni would be disarranged in real life if she were to fall down on being pushed, is no concern of the censors. They want the choli to be covered by the odhni under any circumstances.

In "Chandni Chowk", one of the offending passages was "the shot of the heroine in white dress when the pointed bust is emphasized through thin transparent georgette saree, when she says the word 'Akbar'." Here, obviously, the bust is covered both by choli and sari. But still the bust concerned managed to make the censors uncomfortable, because it was pointed and the sari was of transparent georgettte. Does that mean a taboo on georgette also?

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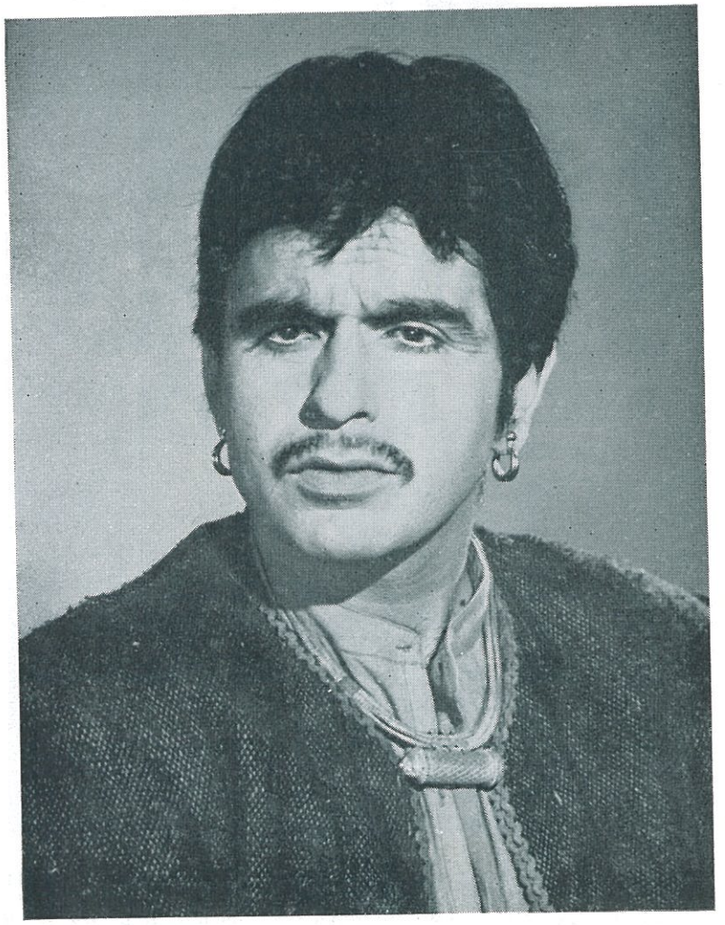


Versatile to the point of being a genius, Dilip Kumar has played many roles on the screen—some of them changing his very personality. Here he is in another unusual role, as the hero of the play, in "Insaniyat", a screen classic produced and directed by S. S. Vasan for Gemini.

From Reel V of "Naqab" was deleted "the swift circular movements in the dances when the skirt or the kamiz goes above the knees, baring the pyjama or shalwar near the thighs". What is bared here is not thighs or legs but a garment covering the legs. In the old days when dancers used to twirl, the skirts used to fly giving a glimpse of naked legs and thighs. With the coming of censorship that practice has been discarded and now producers drape the dancers with chooridars beneath the skirts so that even if the skirts fly during dance movements, no naked thighs or legs would be seen. But the censors evidently find even the sight of chooridar-draped legs offending and they just do not approve of skirts flying, dance or no dance. The producers probably would have to solve the problem by attiring the dancers in whale-boned Victorian gowns.

All these cuts, and there are thousands of similar variety, reveal the censors as a pathetic bunch of faddists and puritans. And the fanatic and undue attention with which they have been looking at our actresses' bosoms and cholis seems to suggest a sick mind. In psychopathology there is a word to describe this kind of fanatic concentration on a part of the human body or on an article of clothing as an erotic stimulant and the word is, fetichism. Since a vast majority of their cuts seem to deal with "emphasized bust", "pointed bust", "not properly covered bust", "shaking breasts", "heaving bust", "moving bust", "tight-fitting sweater", "shining pointed choli", "uncovered blouse" etc., the censors seem to indicate themselves only as fetichists and we wonder if it wouldn't be a good idea to take them to a psychiatrist and get a report on the state of their mental mechanism.

If the apparent principles which dictated these cuts are to be followed consistently, it would mean that actresses should have invisible bosoms because any well-developed bust supported with a brassiere becomes "emphasized". It would also mean that our actresses should not run or jump or ride or raise their hands overhead or stretch themselves or fall on the ground or go mad or breathe heavily or stand in profile or get caught in a storm or get soaked in rain or probably do anything which would reveal the existence of their breasts.

We think this is nonsensical and that if our censors pursue this kind of censorship further, they will be confirmed as stupid censors. And we have been labouring to make them intelligent and enlightened censors all these years and not stupid censors. The censors, therefore, must stop this cock-eyed and addle-headed type of censorship. They must develop a more enlightened outlook, rid themselves of their apparent fetishes and once again go over the code to remember its letter and spirit.

The pictures cited above by us are not necessarily models of good taste and many cuts have been justified. Most of our producers are illiterate and uneducated people and crudeness is a part of their pictures. And it must be admitted that the censors have pruned much from our pictures that was undesirable. But the censors need a little cleaning in their own brain windows where some cobwebs seem to have got stretched.

We realize that the censors are doing a necessarily unpleasant and thankless job but let it be governed by intelligence and an enlightened outlook and not by puritanical caprices and a malicious concentration on the twin sources of a child's food.

In a Welfare State, a woman's busts like everything else must grow and flourish and in a socialistic pattern of society they must have all the freedom to move up and down their hinges without the censors staring at them. If cow-slaughter is banned in this country to save the cow, this bust-slaughter by our censors must also stop to save our women. For the busts will always remain a woman's most glorious expression of her personality, be they her mother's heirlooms or a gift from an enterprising costumier.

ENOUGH OF DINKERRAO 'DUDHWALLA'

Only next in importance to the now notorious Tube-Well Scandal in which Chief Minister Morarji Desai distinguished himself, is the Education Scandal in which our "Dudhwalla" Minister Dinkerrao Desai has now definitely won lasting honours.

On 15th March 1955, while making a budget demand of Rs. 15,79,88,600 under the head "Education" in the Bombay Legislative Assembly, Dinkerrao "Dudhwalla", Minister for Education, solemnly said: "We are very careful. Our aim is to make education effective. I assure the House that every pie sanctioned for education will be usefully spent."

On 13th June 1955 when the Bombay schools reopened after the summer vacation, the traditional disparity between a Congress Minister's words and deeds became evident. It was evident that Dinkerrao "Dudhwalla", as the State's Education Minister, was miles away from being "very careful", that whatever his lofty theoretical aim about education, his ministry was handling education in the State in a tragically incompetent and inefficient manner. It was too early yet to talk about the useful spending of pies.

For, on the reopening day as the students went to schools to receive instruction, regular teaching could not be started because the students did not have most of the text-books prescribed for use in primary and secondary schools. Nor did the teachers have the text-books. It was not a rare one-day coincidence of pupils' and teachers' negligence. It was an educational crisis. Text-books on practically all subjects and for all standards from V to X had been changed by the Government with effect from the current academic year, but the new books were not available as they were still in the process of being printed. This was like our first Five-Year Plan which started two years before the finalized Plan came into existence. The academic year of Bombay schools had begun before the text-books were born.

The students were in schools the next day, but the text-books were still in the presses. The day after it was the same story. Many days later it was the same story. The students were in schools, the text-books were in presses and Dinkerrao "Dudhwalla" was on Malabar Hill. And the text-books were not expected to be ready until the end of July.

Every text-book that is used in primary and secondary schools in the State is prescribed or sanctioned by the Government. What books are to be published, by whom are they to be published and by what date they should be available is the responsibility of the Government. Now here is the chronology of the text-book muddle:

(1) In December 1953, the Government decided to change the curriculum and text-books for upper primary and secondary schools and announced that text-books would be revised and new books would be prescribed from June 1955. That is, the Government reached the decision to prescribe new text-books one and a half years before the books were to be required by the students.

(2) The Government instructed the publishers to submit text-books for Government's approval by October 1954.

(3) The publishers submitted their lists in time.

That is how we should look at him with that pretty decoration over his upper lip. But evidently Dev Anand has spotted a girl in the jungle and in doing so seems to have seen a woman for the first time in his life. That explains why he embraces the tree in Gemini's super classic "Insaniyat", produced and directed by S. S. Vasan.

(4) The Text-Books Committees scrutinized the lists and submitted their recommendations by the end of February 1955.

(5) The recommendations of the Text-Books Committees were now, evidently, allowed to mellow through contact with dust and flies for two months and the first notification listing the text-books sanctioned for the primary standards I to VII was sent out to the publishers only on April 16, 1955.

(6) The publishers found the prices arbitrarily fixed too low by the Government and being in the business primarily for profits rather than for propagation of knowledge, they began bargaining with the Government till the Government agreed to increase the prices by 20 per cent.

(7) On April 19, 1955, the publishers met the Education Minister and when it was threatened that the deposits of Rs. 10,000 furnished by each may be forfeited if they could not complete the publication of primary school books by June 7, the publishers protested informing the Minister that it would be impossible to get the books ready by that date. They, however, promised to do their best to bring the books out as early as possible. The Education Minister, evidently, swallowed both the promise and the protest.

(8) The list of sanctioned books for the Secondary School standards VIII and IX was notified to the publishers on May 16, 1955, less than a month before the schools were to reopen, one month after the notification regarding the sanctioned primary school books was issued, and about three months after the Text-Books Committees had submitted their recommendations.

(9) After notifying the list of secondary school books on May 16, the Administration suddenly seemed to remember that the schools were to reopen within a month and so on May 25, the Director of Education issued a circular stressing that text-books for primary schools should be ready by June 7 and those for standards VIII and IX by June 15.

(10) From the circular the publishers thought that the Director of Education had sense of humour but little sense of reality and replied by denying that they had given any promise or assurance that the books would be ready by the date optimistically chosen by the authorities. The publishers, of course, were talking with their difficulties in mind—finding paper and presses, hesitation in giving printing orders due to the failure of the heads of schools to intimate to the publishers their selection of books, and other factors. Heads of schools in turn did not receive even the list of sanctioned books for standards VIII and IX until only about a week before the schools reopened.

This list of events makes it clear that the utter inefficiency and laziness of the Educational Administration is primarily and largely to blame for the delay in the publication of text-books and for causing thrombosis in the educational system of the State.

And while the delay in the publication of school books was so steadily and sharply foreshadowed, Dinkerrao "Dudhwalla" on the heights of the Malabar Hill was blissfully ignorant of the plight of 40-lakh primary and secondary school pupils of the State and had the impudence to declare on June 16 that he was not aware of any delay in the publication of the text-books. And this is the man who had solemnly assured the Legislative Assembly with the words: "We are very careful. Our aim is to make education effective". One may ask what this Minister does to maintain such supreme aloofness from his job and responsibility. We do not know what Dinkerrao "Dudhwalla" does usually but on April 3 he was personally selling milk to customers in Ahmedabad, he being our Minister of Milk also. And in the interests of educational progress of the State, we wish Dinkerraobhai may be persuaded to sell milk daily and leave the education of the State alone to be administered even if by a less careful man but a man who would attach more meaning to his words.

This latest scandal apart, the educational administration of the State seems to be one continuous scandalous operation. At the last S.S.C. Examinations there was a delay of 15 minutes to 4 hours in the distribution of examination papers at many centres and on many days resulting in great inconvenience to candidates some of whom were compelled to sit in the examination halls till late in the night. This year serious allegations of discrimination and favouritism have been made in respect of selection of text-books and it is reported that 15 out of the 17 books written by a former Deputy Director of Education have been approved while 70 books of an established Bombay publisher were rejected outright. The circular calling at the last minute upon schools to make provision for the compulsory teaching of a regional language in all standards from III to XI from this academic year is another classic example of the confusion and inefficiency

which characterize the Educational Administration in the Bombay State.

And the unholy hurry and hustle with which the Bombay Government is trying to abolish English and foist Hindi in schools has reduced education to a field for Congress experiments. Last year, in its anti-English crusade, the Bombay Government went all the way to the Supreme Court before it could be convinced that the parents have a fundamental right to choose the language through which their children shall be taught.

Blind anti-English crusade, inefficiency and utter confusion are the features of not only Bombay's educational administration but practically of the whole country's. Administration of education has been a scandal in Bengal, in Madras, in Uttar Pradesh and in other States, apart from Bombay. And with the white-caps bent upon compensating themselves for their past years of suffering and frustration by inflicting frustrations on others, the education of Indian children seems to be headed for a perilous journey.

"They who educate children well are more to be honoured than they who produce them," said Aristotle. In India whether the emphasis is on educating or on producing is no secret. It is a national scandal.

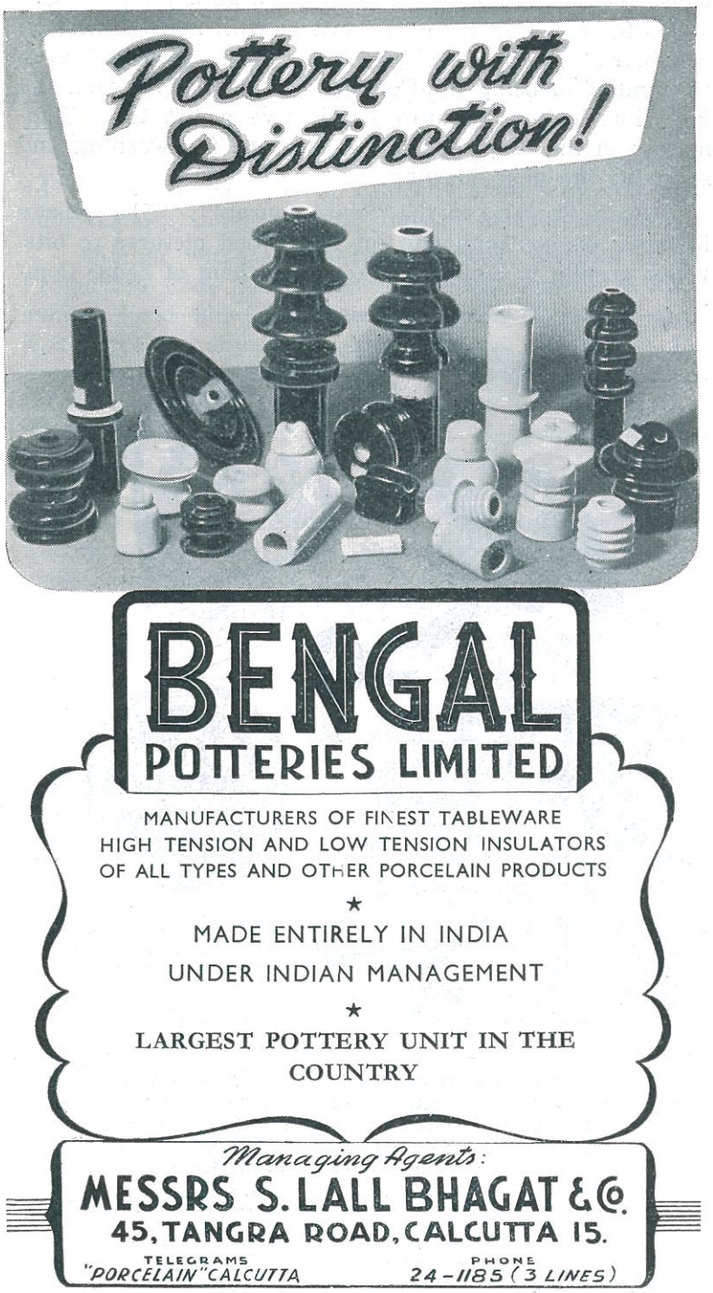
What we want to know is why Dinkerrao "Dudhwalla" has not been kicked out of the Bombay Cabinet for utter incompetence, shameful inefficiency and white lies? A minister who plays with the education of our children in this callous manner doesn't deserve to be a minister of a Welfare State with a socialistic pattern of society. We don't expect a Congress minister to resign in the blush of his conscience but a thick-skinned man can always be kicked out by his Chief if the Chief has some conscience for democracy and efficiency in administration.

FILMINDIA'S CAMPAIGN HURTS

A campaign for a good cause launched with missionary zeal and conducted in a proper pitch is bound to receive the attention and support of myriads of people and raise echoes all over the world. And specially if it happens to be a campaign spread and sponsored by "filmindia"—the magazine that is read, scrutinized and digested in over 56 countries of the world—then the campaign becomes an international thunder.

"Filmindia's" campaign against Hollywood's filthy and anti-social pictures has been long, loud, ruthless and hard-hitting. It has been ruthless because something that constitutes a menace to the well-being of 367 million people of our country deserves no mercy, and it has been loud because in this industrialized world of mill sirens nobody bothers to hear a faint whistle or whisper. And it has been hard-hitting because film producers who turn a great opportunity into a crime need whipping.

And now the reverberations of "filmindia's" campaign are being heard in different corners of the earth and Hollywood which thought that its career of peddling poison in motion pictures would be eternally smooth is suddenly finding a host of countries turning hostile to its sexy, violent and criminal pictures and even at home it is meeting with sharp, critical stares. "Filmindia's" continuous and crusading denunciation of Hollywood's anti-social pictures is now being echoed in France, Italy, Sweden, Japan, Ceylon, Indonesia, Singapore, East Africa, West Indies, Britain and many other countries, and of course in the United States. Different countries are



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noticing how "filmindia's" campaign is bringing down mass bans on Hollywood's anti-social pictures in India and drawing inspiration from us they are starting their own campaigns and tightening their censorship rules.

Hundreds of newspapers and magazines in different countries are quoting "filmindia's" reviews and comments on Hollywood pictures. Recently Frank H. Stuckert in his column in the "Swiss Journal" devoted a whole paragraph to listing some of the pictures banned in India, justified the bans and mocked Hollywood for dubbing Indians as Communist-dominated in irritation over the bans. This Communist-domination charge is an old handy shield for covering one's own crimes with many American criminals. Peeved Hollywoodians are accusing even "filmindia" of being pro-Communist not knowing that the last time Editor Baburao Patel gave a lift to a Communist in his car, he had his car sent for washing and servicing the next morning.

Wrote Stuckert in the "Swiss Journal": "The censors in India are continuing to cut Hollywood pictures to bits, which results in Hollywood accusing them of being Communist dominated. Well, what other accusation can they think of in this day and age? During the past few months the censors in India banned entirely: "The Moon is Blue" (which was banned here too, remember), "Dial M for Murder" (what's wrong with preventing people from enjoying murder?), "Fort Algiers", "Cease Fire" (what's wrong with wanting to see other pictures instead of the current flow of war pictures?), "The Wild One" (which ran into trouble here too), "Phantom of the Rue Morgue" (which was morbid, to say the least), "Man in the Attic" (which was also morbid), "I, The Jury" (can't blame them for not wanting any part of Mickey Spillane, who does?), "French Line" (what a lousy film) and "The Flame and the Flesh", which could be classified as immoral. There you have it! Communist dominated, indeed!"

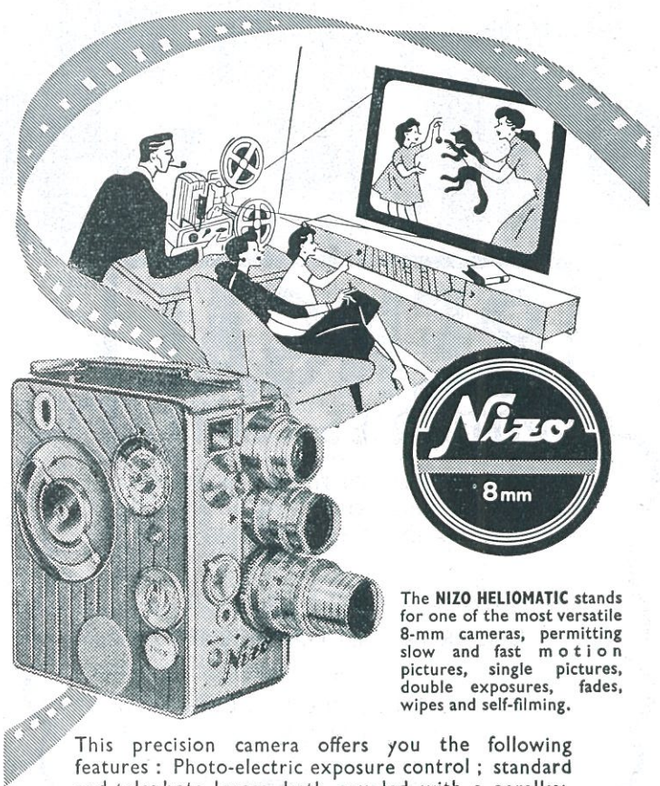
Thanks to "filmindia", thousands of miles away people know of the activities of the Indian censors, justify them and defend them against wicked charges. In England too, the censors have become more alert than ever regarding Hollywood's anti-social pictures. In the last few months the broad-minded British censors totally banned "The Wild One", "Black Tuesday", "Cry Vengeance", "Wicked Woman", "Operation Manhunt" and "Cell 2455, Death Row". And Britain's film censor, Arthur T. L. Watkins, warned Hollywood producers: "Anyone who prolongs scenes of violence is only doing so to titillate a small unhealthy section of the audience."

And above all, in U.S.A., the same country from whose one small coastal corner Hollywood spreads its filth all over the world, Hollywood is finding outraged voices rising in chorus against its filthy sex-soaked and violence-laden pictures. American film journals, most of which are honourless publicity agents of Hollywood, are receiving an unprecedented wave of protest letters condemning Hollywood's sexy and violent pictures. In a single recent issue, the American film weekly "Motion Picture Herald" had as many as 4 letters out of 6 disapproving Hollywood's sexy and violent pictures. All the four letters represented exhibitors, who should know something about audience reaction to Hollywood pictures.

Wrote one exhibitor: "There seems to be a trend toward unnecessary violence and sex in recent motion pictures.....There are times, of course, when a certain amount of brutality is needed to properly develop a story or certain characters. But recently it seems too often that brutality, violence and sex are the basic reasons for making some pictures. I am quite concerned and hope the industry recognizes the problem before disaster overcomes us."

Another exhibitor said: "I would like to go on record as saying that there have been entirely too many pictures produced in Hollywood with a trend toward excessive scenes of physical cruelty and sadism during the last couple of years."

And "Motion Picture Herald" editorially admitted: "Despite the warnings from the State Department, the Production Code Administration, and other quarters there



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is still much too much detailed physical violence and torture in too many pictures." In another issue the magazine cautioned Hollywood to maintain standards of decent entertainment while referring to the New York State's ban on "crime", "sex" and "horror" comic books, and remarked: "Special attention is directed to the fact that the same type of material objected to in the comic books has been featured in some recent notorious films." And this is from a magazine entirely supported by Hollywood producers.

One development at which Hollywood kept rubbing its eyes in disbelief, however, was the arrival in Los Angeles in June last of Democratic Senator Estes Kefauver of Tennessee, to question the Hollywood movie-mongers about their contribution to the galloping juvenile delinquency in America. Juvenile delinquency in America has become so much of a national nightmare that the U.S. Senate had to appoint a Senate Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Deliquency with Senator Kefauver as the chairman.

The pictures which the Subcommittee singled out as objectionable, either because their contents or their publicizing was considered too lurid or too full of violence, included: "The Prodigal", "Blackboard Jungle", "Rebel Without a Cause", "Women's Prison", "Crashout", "Black Tuesday", "Hell's Island", "Ten Wanted Men", "Big House, U.S.A.", "New Orleans Uncensored", "I Died a Thousand Times" and "Chicago Syndicate".

Summoned to appear at the hearings, Hollywood producers, of course advanced the usual stupid, hypocritical defences of their anti-social pictures, which lacked education and concern for society. But some of their answers were quite informative. When Y. Frank Freeman, the vice-president of Paramount, staring all the while at the copies of "filmindia" lying on the chairman's table, was confronted with some lurid posters publicizing the Paramount picture "Hell's Island", and was asked by Senator Kefauver if he approved of the advertising, Freeman could not but admit, "I think it is very bad", but in a face-saving effort added, "You should see the letter I wrote about it." MGM's Dore Schary, when asked whether it was the Hollywood practice to add extra scenes of violence to pictures so that they may have more impact on the audience, conceded, "That's possible."

Jerry Wald of Columbia was, however, more irritated at the sight of "filmindia" and when Senator Kefauver asked him if he would take his own children to see a prison picture, "Caged", produced by Wald, he said he didn't see why not and counterquestioned Senator Kefauver, "Do you think your children would be disturbed by seeing "Blackboard Jungle", Senator? " Senator Kefauver gave a reply which represents the disturbing experience of an entire world of anxious parents. Replied the Senator: "I don't know about that picture, but I have a 13-year-old daughter and she has come home emotionally upset after seeing certain movies and couldn't sleep all night."

The Subcommittee then got Gordon S. White, director of the Advertising Code Administration, on the witness stand and asked him to take a look at a publicity poster of "The Prodigal". The poster showed actress Lana Turner in a semi-nude state reclining on a couch and being embraced by Edmund Purdom. White glanced at the poster and said, "This was probably an extreme case", and he revealed Hollywood's sordidness as he tried to explain that this poster was already improved by the addition of some clothing and said, "In the original photograph the girl's costume had only beads on her hips."

Challenging White on his statement that advertisements try to convey the "atmosphere of the picture", Senator Kefauver said that producers had submitted that even their worst pictures contained a moral, and he asked White, "Where is the moral in some of this advertising?" White handed the excuse "The pictures have 90 minutes to tell a moral. You can't tell a moral in a five-second ad." Sure you can't! You can only show sexy and semi-nude females and gun-toting and throat-choking males.

Another witness, Geoffrey Shurlock, director of the Production Code Administration, when questioned about similar lurid film advertisements, said, "None of these would get me anywhere near a picture, I admit." Lou Greenspan, executive secretary of the Motion Picture Industry Council, became almost incoherent defending Hollywood and trying to say that Hollywood was not responsible if Americans were becoming immune to brutality. He blamed "civilization" for it and concluded panting, "We are sitting on an emotional powder keg, waiting to be blown up." Nobody understood what keg under his bottom this man was taking about, but all responsible people the world over admit that Hollywood as a purveyor of filth really deserves to be blown up.

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Chief critic of Hollywood at the hearings, William Mooring, film editor of the "Catholic Tidings" and syndicated writer for 50 other publications, told Hollywoodians just what their pictures contain. He said, "Sadism and brutality have been increasing dangerously in movies in the last few years", and declared that such pictures as "Blackboard Jungle", "Wild One", "Big House, U.S.A.", "Black Tuesday", "Kiss Me Deadly" and "Cell 2455, Death Row" contained too much brutality to be seen by young viewers. He added, "As sure as marijuana leads to heroin, morally vicious pictures lead to pornography."

Dr. Marcel Frym, teacher of psychology and criminology at the University of Southern California, said "it cannot be denied that certain criminally prone juveniles are influenced by movie and television crime shows". About the lurid film posters he said, "They are very bad indeed. They shouldn't be permitted." Psychiatrist Dr. Frederich J. Hacher said Hollywood pictures are so filled with brutality nowadays "that we have become impervious to violence. We now accept it as a part of ordinary life."

What, however, hurt Hollywood's movie-moghuls most was the constant reference by the Subcommittee to several copies of "filmindia" during the investigation.

This new awakening even in America against the menace of Hollywood's sexy, brutal, sadistic and criminal pictures, shows that "filmindia's" campaign is reaching far and wide, influencing people and governments and inspiring the preparation of a final coffin for unholy Hollywood.

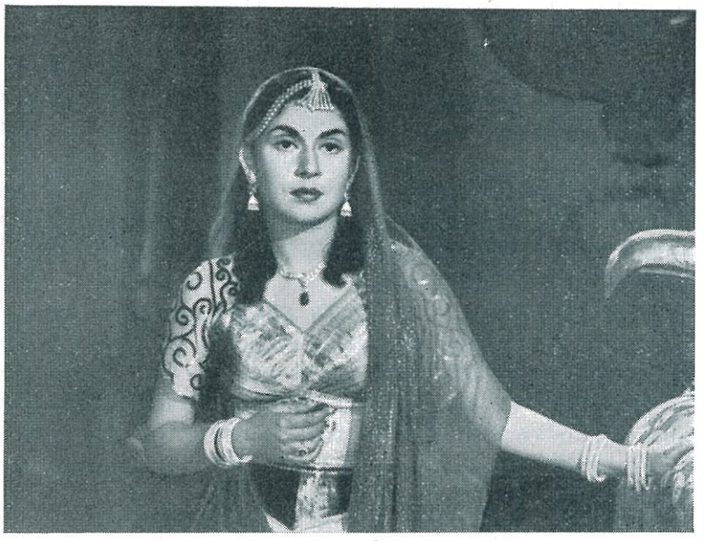
Hollywood, of course, is a hydra not easy of destruction, but its fangs have to be broken and its poison taken out, if billions of homes all over the world are to be saved from unnecessary ruin.

With the blessings of God, we shall do it one day.

YOU'LL HARDLY BELIEVE—

THAT all that the Russians knew about Nehru was that he wore a white cap because he was a peace pigeon. So a couple of Indian journalists with white caps and Hari, Nehru's valet, also wearing a white cap were all mistaken for Nehru and profusely garlanded by the Russians. And when garlands started running short the sundry white caps had to be removed from useless heads and Nehru's white cap was thus made the crown of India during the rest of the Russian tour. Russian stupidity has thus created a Constitutional crisis because one of the journalists feels that his fundamental right of wearing the white cap was interfered with and thinks he deserves damages from the Union. That is a case for an immediate fifth amendment to the Constitution.

THAT Pandit Nehru was as usual so extremely touched by the lavish hospitality of the Russians that he gave a sentimental touch to his departure by saying, "I leave richer and poorer at the same time. Richer because I take with me wonderful memories, poorer because I leave here part of my heart". As soon as Khrushchev heard that he pushed his hand under Bulganin's beard and shouted "Dev Tali" in Hindustani. The Russians had tamed the pigeon and now the pigeon will fly as a Communist courier to other countries.



Whipped? No! Just prim and patient! Women have many faces—each to suit a new design. Study the face and you get the design—the wrong one, of course,. Vijayalakshmi is old at designing and we can only know what she is about if we see Gemini's "Insaniyat", a three-million production directed by S. S. Vasan.

THAT the noise which the Russians made over Nehru exasperated the Indian Communists so much that they immediately held a meeting in Delhi and decided to give "conditional support" to the Nehru Government, particularly to its foreign policy which extended areas of peace. That has at last made the Nehru Government secure and stable.

THAT Grandma Leelavati Munshi has decided to meet the menace of the Atom Bomb by launching gas warfare in other countries of the world. She has announced her intention of opening "Annapurnas" in different countries and wants to see what the foreign scientists will do to counteract the activities of these "gas stations". In Bombay the area round "Annapurna" smells like Worli these days and even the old Parsis round the old well have shifted to another well near Colaba.

THAT the fat Rajpramukh of Mysore left for East Africa on a grand six-week hunting expedition and was seen off with smiles and garlands by Hanumanthaiya, the lean Chief Minister of the Mysore State. Who says that our Princes have become poor? Let us at least hope the fat prince brings some fat lions back for our Zoos. We need at least three for our Asoka symbol.

THAT Chaplin-moustached Dhebar is being built up as Party Chief in right royal purple methods with all the government press and publicity resources placed at his disposal. Takhatmal Jain, Chief Minister of Madhya Bharat, unashamedly admitted that a Government Information Officer and a state photographer accompanied Dhebar wherever he went. We like an honest statement

like this. It is time some other state governments admitted that even government advertisement space to newspapers depended on the amount of space given to Dhebar.

THAT the school boys of Bombay State had this year an extra vacation of 45 days, thanks to the text-book muddle caused by Dinkerrao "Dudhwalla", Bombay's Minister for Education. It is a good idea to begin a year's hard work with a good welfare vacation. It is like an educational honeymoon for the students before they start tackling the books seriously.

THAT Chaplin-moustached Dhebar has now also become our national costumier. His latest wardrobe prescription for the ideal Indian Citizen is: Three white caps, three shirts, three pyjamas or dhoties and a pair of chappals. He doesn't, however, say anything about a pound of butter which Gandhiji used daily for the skin. He probably thinks Congressmen don't need sensitive skins any longer.

THAT the Delhi State has decided to kick up its cottage industry by accepting the recommendation of the State Prohibition Advisory Committee to introduce gradual Prohibition in the Delhi State from October 2, Gandhi Jayanti Day. Quite a few distillers and bootleggers from Bombay have been invited, we are told, as experts to provide guidance in the new cottage industry that is expected to bring new prosperity to the State and new voters to the Congress. Now Jan Sangh candidates won't win any elections in Delhi.

THAT all old and dehydrated Congressmen have now been given new hope by Chief Minister Morarji Desai. Speaking at a women's function, Morarji described woman as "sanjivani", the herb that revived the dead and he advised them to cast off their shyness and overcome the tyranny of men. (Mrs. Morarji Desai was not in the audience then). Congressmen, however, cannot use the healing powers of this new "herb" without hurting the Anti-Bigamy law. Or can they?

THAT the newsreels of Keskar's Films Division have been labouring for years to show our people what useless men we have as ministers. Newsreel No. 348 went a little further and revealed Govind Ballabh Pant, our Home Minister, as a paralytic in addition. And he did make the audience burst out in a ripple of derisive laughter as his hands shook helplessly while receiving a pair of tiger cubs—symbols of strength and ferocity. As a subtle explanation of our Goa problem it was a clever piece of work. And all this probably proves that Keskar is a better choice than many in spite of his head shaking like Pant's hands. Those people who voted for the Congress did however feel embarrassed and said that they would like to see white caps without their physical defects. Let us hope that one day Keskar doesn't show us a minister swearing with a red face in a strenuous effort to relieve chronic constipation.

THAT a prisoner on parole recently gave a wonderful certificate to the Bhavanagar Jail saying, "There was good food to eat, bidies to smoke and radio music to listen to. Jail life under the present administration in Saurashtra is like Government service with wages, leave and other facilities.... It was like a maternal uncle's home". By making jail life attractive our white-capped Congressmen have now provided another incentive to crime. Prohibition was the first one.

THAT J. C. Jain, Dalmia's pennywhistle, created a national sensation in America by making a television appearance in "Musical Nightcap" at Hollywood. Wildly waving copies of "Filmfare" in the face of his invisible

Kalyani : The most modern township planned. Rs. 12 crore-plan of Government of West Bengal for development of township. It offers all amenities, electricity, water supply, under-ground sewers, metalled roads, hospital, schools, parks and playgrounds, markets, post office, cinema and scope for industry and career, etc.—all that is best in metropolitan life *plus* the quiet comfort and fresh pure air of a healthy country resort.

Plots from 5 to 20 Kattas @ Rs. 560/- to Rs. 830/- per Katta — cash down or by instalments. Special facilities for building materials as available at site. Construction of 500 houses at prices ranging from Rs. 8,000/- to 18,000/- (exclusive of the price of land) has also started.

Please contact the Public Relations Officer, P. O. Kalyani, Dist. Nadia or the Development Department, Raj Bhavan, Calcutta, for full particulars. Send Re. 1/- by Money Order for the Plan of Kalyani.

Issued by : **THE GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

audience Jai Chand literally sang a song of Dalmia and gave creeps to millions of Yankees as they heard this unique "Voice of India". Now the American scientists want us to export to America all the Jai Chands we have in a grand national effort to discover the secret of that voice. The glands may be used for polio too.

THAT our students are good practical jokers. One of them recently protested against the "Servants Compartment" being called as such because the word "servant" sounded rather insulting in Gandhi's India. So the Railway Minister rechristened it as "Attendants Compartment". Now we want the Railway Minister to be christened "Ayomarg Mantri" just as our Income Tax office was named "Aayakar Bhavan" and in doing so killed all its fear and personality. Isn't it time we became Hindi beggars with a vengeance?

THAT the fact that parents often make serious mistakes in naming their children is being brought home to ex-Producer Ram Kamlani by his brother Gope and other members of the Kamlani family. They attribute even Gope's insolvency to poor Ram, forgetting Gope's acquired Burmese relatives, and call him Ravan Kamlani these days. Ram hid his face in Pakistan for a few months as a film adviser to Pakistan's producers but then in a country with a religious permit of four wives, Ram's one-wife traditional name did not cut much ice. And Shakespeare said 'What is in a name etc. etc'. He had not met Sindhis then.

THAT adopting babies is an old craze among film folks. It began way back when Sulochana, the famous film star of olden days, brought a dark little shrimp to the studio one day and called her a daughter. Mumtaz Shanti, Meena and many others took many more waifs on their laps and gave them dolls and parentage while Nargis undertook to look after the entire output of her brothers, Akhtar and Anwar. The latest quarrel over adoption was between two great pals—Producer K. B. Lall and Producer S. U. Sunny and the kid is called Baby Ruby. At recent meetings held at the Ambassador it was decided that Sunny should be Baby's papa and Lall should be her godfather.

THAT of all people in Bombay, our young and handsome Collector Bowman has recently got interested in our motion picture industry. Dear old Mohana, our Jane Russell, got him initiated one day by telling him stories of her adventures in Rome, Paris and London and her skirmishes with Chaplin, Mitchum and others. Now Bowman wants to hear Mohana's fairy tales every Saturday evening. Poor boy, he seems to be having a bad memory.

THAT a lot of change is seen in our squint-eyed film actress Chand Usmani since she travelled alone from Delhi to Bombay leaving behind her chaperoning uncle with colic pain. She is reported to have stretched her imagination beyond her home and province nowadays and is taking keen interest in Bengali language, culture and youth movement. Let us hope she doesn't trade in her original name and turn Usmani into Bengali.

THAT film actresses Shyama and Suryakumari both residing in "Vasundhara", not "Basun-dhara", are these days reported to be taking nursing instruction in a maternity hospital situated in the same building. The way they talk of child-birth, family planning, infant mortality and other intriguing subjects these days, both threaten to be qualified nurses in a short time.

THAT that Jalan-Mukherjee anti-Indian stuff "Bombay Flight 417" is now christened "Three-Headed Cobra". The third "cobra" Victor Katona thus gets his rightful place in the title of the story. But when one of the other "cobras" working on the sets tried to hiss in the face of film actress Vyjayantimala calling it a kiss, she walked out of the set and the picture and the three "cobras" had to replace her with Vinita Butt who probably doesn't mind either a hiss or a kiss. What an Indian miss!

THAT the world's greatest actor Prithviraj Kapoor M.P., who has so often turned Shakespeare in his grave by his stage recitals, erupted like a volcano one evening when Shammi, his second mistake, coolly announced his plan of bringing home a wife from the film industry. Shammi brushed off the lava and drove straight to Khandala probably for an advance sample of the honeymoon round the corner. Papa Prithvi is now behaving as if he got a dog-bite.

THAT Papa Attaullah's daughters seem to have opened a research institute in Arabian Villa to investigate the racial and climatic reasons which contribute to the abnormal length of the traditional Parsi nose. Now "Baby" Altaf is trying to measure a Parsi nose and submit a thesis to Papa Attaullah.

THAT unlike Dinkerrao 'Dudhwalla' our broad-nosed actress Sandhya is a great believer in education. She says, "Shantaram has taught me everything. If I work outside I would, perhaps, earn more money but my education will come to an end". It shouldn't, because for all round education there is no one better than Shantaram. He is a graduate of the Kolhapur University. Now that Jayashree's education is finished, we suppose she can accept outside offers. Or can't she?

THAT Comedian Charlie, who migrated to Pakistan after the partition, has left acting for good and become a cotton broker. A cotton broker in Pakistan is the man who holds cotton wool in maternity wards. We don't know what Charlie is searching for.

THAT film actor Ashok Kumar is these days explaining the phenomenon of the flying saucers to film actress Meena Kumari on the sets of "Ek Hi Rasta". Let us hope she doesn't fly off in one to the Moon thinking it to be the "Ek Hi Rasta" out of the Amrohi mess.

OUR REVIEW

"Yasmin" An Old, Old Tale!

Well-framed Love's Labour Lost!

Kardar's "Yasmin" is a tale of a desert romance between a buxom dancing belle and a short son of a tall Sheikh. It is a handsomely produced picture, expertly photographed and efficiently directed. And with Vyjayantimala, as the dancing belle, in various attractive costumes and Cameraman Divecha in excellent photographing form, the picture contains plenty of visual appeal.

But the picture reveals Kardar's conventional contempt of the old golden rule, "the play's the thing". Kardar evidently believes that any play is good play once it is polished with Kardar Studios' technical skill. The play in "Yasmin", therefore, is old, stale and puerile and since "Yasmin" is neither wine nor a child's prank but a motion picture, its being old and puerile are no virtues. And it is as old and stale as the memory of Rudolph Valentino who played a double role in this very tale then known as "The Son of Sheikh". Such thin stories, however, require a star billing and had Kardar secured the services of Dilip Kumar, "Yasmin" would have become a box-office hit. However, for those who do not mind an old, inconsequential theme made visually excellent, it is a fairly attractive picture and, of course, a good time-killer for every picturegoer.

SHEIKH OF ARABY

Ahmed is the short son of a tall Arab Sheikh. Provoked by his son's irresponsible youthful ways, when Sheikh orders Ahmed to go out to a near-by desert tent and supervise the work of rent collections without ever failing to be present in the tent every night, Ahmed thinks it to be a tall order even though he expresses obedience and rides away to the tent. He soon finds life boring in a lonely desert tent at night, rushes to the near-by town to one of his friends and there spends the night drinking and watching dancing girls.

One of the dancing girls happens to be Yasmin, a big bundle of curves, and the short Arab instantly loses his heart to her. Yasmin also finds Ahmed interesting and decides to keep a couple of trysts with him and by the time the father and the fiance of one and the parents of the other come to know of their romantic meetings, the two are swearing to resist anything that comes beween them. Lots of things come between them and in spite of numerous fumblings, mumblings and misunderstandings they do resist them but the resistance stretches right up to the end when after plenty of demonstrations of desert passions and violence, the evil characters are defeated, the obstinate ones are made reasonable and the two romantic ones are paired off.

WELL-FRAMED

Vyjayantimala as Yasmin dances all through the picture and all over the screen and sprinkles a good dose of sex-appeal in the picture though she does little of acting. There is generally pleasant music for the ears though all the songs are not pleasantly picturised. And in spite of some repetitive scenes and sentiments, the old theme is invested with a fair tempo.

The production values are, of course, excellent. Sets are quite good. Divecha's camerawork is polished and outstanding. Ishan Ghosh's sound recording is efficient. The dialogue consists of old popular words heard at least a thousand times before and a couple of lyrics are fairly well-worded. The direction is efficient.

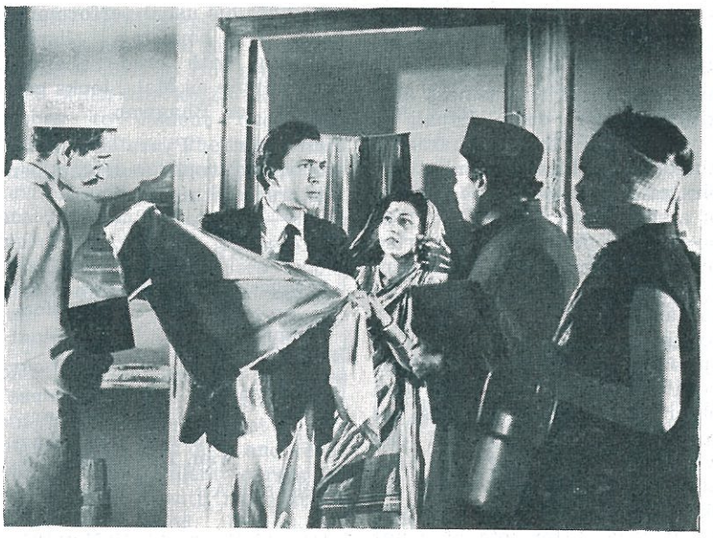
From the players, Vyjayantimala as Yasmin is easy on the eyes. And there she ends her performance. Suresh, as Ahmed, without the Arab height looks his usual self and seems to act his best so far, both being not enough though. Jayant as Sheikh is quite believable and does well while Sham Kumar makes quite a hateable villain as Yasmin's fiance. S. N. Banerji as Yasmin's father looks silly and takes his Bengali accent to the Arab desert.

In fine, "Yasmin" is a handsomely produced old, evaporated theme with plenty of technical polish and musical effervescence, and as such is quite a good time-killer. It would have been a box-office exactly twenty years ago.

YASMIN

Producers:	**Musical Pictures Ltd.**
Language:	**Hindustani**
Dialogue:	**Jagdish Kanwal, S. N. Banerji**
Lyrics:	**Jan Nishar Akhtar**
Music:	**C. Ramchandra**
Photography:	**Dwarka Divecha**
Sound:	**Ishan Ghosh**
Cast:	**Vyjayantimala, Suresh, Jayant, Sham Kumar etc.**
Released At:	**Roxy, Bombay**
Date of Release:	**10th June 1955**

Directed By:
A. R. KARDAR



Rent farmers often plough so deep that no seed can sprout in the furrow. And the poor know this when their roof starts trembling over their heads. Balraj Sahni and Nirupa Roy face an embarrassing moment in "Taksaal", a novel theme.

OUR REVIEW

"Bindiya" A Fraud In Entertainment

An Undescribably Ugly And Stupid Yarn

Film Asia's "Bindiya" is easily one of the most heinous frauds ever perpetrated on the picture-going public in the name of entertainment. Here is a picture which should have been either sunk into the sea, burnt in the public square or allowed to rot in cans till eternity.

For, this is a picture which is undescribably stupid, ugly, boring, clumsy, incompetent, incoherent and irritating. There is not a single department in which the picture manages to maintain even the minimum standard of efficiency. It has a strikingly stupid story which is portrayed on the screen with maximum incoherence and inefficiency and it does not even move at a snail's pace. It stops dead a few minutes after it starts and stays there till a couple of main characters also drop dead and bring it to a much prayed for end. That picturegoers do not actually drop dead inside the theatre after witnessing this lethal picture is a miracle which deserves to be studied by scientists and medical experts.

REVISED STORY

Whatever loony and lousy yarn there is, deals with a young graduate called Inder who comes to stay with his sister, Savitri, and her husband in a small town (or was it a village?). Savitri happens to have a little daughter, Bablu, and a pretty neighbour, Bindu. Inder starts loving both, defining love differently in each case. But at one end his brother-in-law, for no appreciable reason, starts gravely frowning on his fondness for the child, while at

Success makes many young women fat on the face and so does marriage. Shyama is not married yet but she has been well wedded to success. She brings her mellow charms to the screen in "Musafirkhana", a social tale of this topsy-turvy world.

the other Bindu's father, having a well-to-do idiot in mind for his daughter's marriage, strongly disapproves of Bindu showing interest in Inder. Now the story starts moving in silly circles till Bablu meets an accidental death and going mad with the shock, Inder himself starts moving in circles. After some more senseless, rotten footage both Inder and Bindu die, or rather are killed by whoever is responsible for this trash and wanted somehow to bring it to an end.

STUPID AND DISGUSTING

The picture gives the impression that the whole thing has been just somehow put together and that it did not go through a normal production process, the impression being strengthened by the distributors', Pearl Pictures Ltd.'s claim to having "completely revised, re-edited and finalised" the picture. But the picturegoer is concerned with the final product because he pays to see that, and not with the history of a picture's production. And the final product here is disgustingly stupid, ugly and clumsy. Without mentioning them individually, the production values are all rotten. From the players all seem to make fools of themselves and that includes Shekhar as Inder, Shakuntala as Bindu, Sulochana as Savitri, Bhupendra Kapoor as her husband and Mukri as the well-to-do idiot. Incidentally, Mukri's so-called comic antics include falling on his face into a dung-heap and mistaking a five-year old girl to be his prospective bride.

In short, "Bindiya" is a disgusting, hideous fraud in the name of entertainment and deserves to be avoided like plague.

BINDIYA

Producers:	**Film Asia**
Language:	**Hindustani**
Screenplay:	**Darogaji**
Dialogue:	**Arsh Haidari, Munshi Baqi**
Lyrics:	**Bharat Vyas, S. M. Bihari etc.**
Music:	**Snehal Bhatkar**
Photography:	**T. N. Shah**
Sound:	**H. Shripat**
Cast:	**Shekhar, Shakuntala, Sulochana, Mukri, Baby Shashi, etc.**
Released At:	**Royal Opera House, Bombay**
Date of Release:	**24th June 1955**

Directed By:
SHAMIM BHAGAT

OUR REVIEW

"Pyara Dushman", A Revolting Celluloid of Ugliness

Bhagwan's Umpteenth "Mawali" Theme

Bhagwan Art Productions' "Pyara Dushman" is yet another excuse for Bhagwan to swing his popular hips and make strange faces with his old, ugly face. Like Bhagwan's other pictures, this one is an odd brew of noise, stunts, plagiary and buffoonery. It is evidently quite an entertaining picture for those who are in love with Bhagwan's fat hips and his "mawali"-type mug but for others it is a fairly crude, stupid picture.

SYNTHETIC SEA YARN

The story, which seems to be a close, crude copy of one of Hollywood pictures, probably "Anne of the Indies", deals with a gang of sea pirates headed by Sardar Ketu who manage to harass the marine business of a kingdom no end. Jaipal, a royal visitor to the harassed kingdom, decides to combat the pirates and becomes the captain of a ship. Soon after setting out on the sea, Jaipal is outsmarted by the pirates and is taken captive aboard a pirate ship whose captain happens to be Ketu's tough-acting daughter Bela. In spite of being in opposite camps both Bela and Jaipal find each other interesting morsels of romance and in spite of one whipping the other and the other conspiring the defeat of the former both of them fall in silent love. After lots of songs and stunts Jaipal manages both to capture her as a pirate and seize her as a bed-mate. Jaipal's fat clownish assistant Bahadur gets his own swaying partner in the maiden named Mala.

POOR AND REVOLTING

Technically the picture is poor and ugly. Sets are poor and photography clumsy. Sound recording is a jarring job. Music is mostly noisy but sometimes tolerable. The dialogue is stupid, and direction averagely crude.

Nadira plays Bela and looks pleasing in places though she never convinces. Jairaj as the hero Jaipal has a hard time trying to strike serious notes with Bhagwan around both as actor and director. Bhagwan as Bahadur gives his usual performance, belching, bouncing, lisping, clowning with crude abandon. Leela Gupte as Mala, looks good enough for Bhagwan.

In short, "Pyara Dushman" is crude, stupid entertainment for crude, stupid people.

PYARA DUSHMAN

Producers:	**Bhagwan Art Productions**
Language:	**Hindustani**
Music:	**Nissar**
Photography:	**Shyam Shipusakar**
Cast:	**Nadira, Jairaj, Bhagwan, Leela Gupte etc.**
Released At:	**Lamington, Bombay**
Date of Release:	**27th May 1955**

Directed By:
BHAGWAN

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GENERAL LABORATORIES
(B.M.) P. O. Rajdhanwar (H. Bagh)

OUR REVIEW

"Naqab" Provides Proof of Producer's Stupidity

Tiresome Trash With Idiotic Stunts

As motion picture entertainment, "Naqab" is tiresome and trashy stuff, but as a proof of its makers' stupidity it is a convincing evidence.

It is a picture which is stupid from the first foot to the last and lethally boring throughout. It reveals no intelligence, no imagination, no impressive technical skill and no primary commonsense either. It has no story to speak of because a stupid, tattered theme hideously familiar on the screen can hardly be called a story. And it has no entertainment because a plethora of idiotic and infantile stunts can hardly be called ingredients of entertainment. "Naqab", on the whole, is nothing more and nothing less than a big, ugly bundle of silly stunts and crass stupidities.

MURDEROUS TALE

The picture begins with an utterly idiotic scene in which the wily Vazir of a state cautiously tiptoes his way across the local king's palace to the king's sleeping chamber, straining on the way to pick up any sound and starting at even a flutter of the curtains. Entering the chamber he stabs the sleeping king to death and as a passing chamber-maid raises a shriek at the murder, he silences her too by flinging a knife into her back and then hides himself behind a curtain. But a moment later when the king's daughter rushes to lament over her father's corpse, the murderous Vazir comes out from behind the curtain, laughs loudly and proudly confessing the king's murder warns the crying princess that more murders would be committed if she did not accept his love and marry him.

After this idotic beginning one feels like closing his eyes for the rest of the show but since a reviewer cannot do so, he keeps his eyes open and keeps on delivering silent curses as more celluloid with more stupidities is unrolled. In the following footage, the passionate Vazir imprisons the scornful princess in a palace while the princess' fiance Kamran, another royal creature, arrives in the kingdom in disguise along with his sister Yasmin to rescue the princess. After a lot of asinine acrobatics including the gravity-defying stunts in which characters take a leap from the ground and land upright on balconies, Kamran gets his princess, Yasmin gets her lover Anwar while the Vazir gets his desserts.

POOR ALL ROUND

The production values are poor. Sets are crude. Photography is erratic. Sound recording is none-too-efficient. Lyrics are trite and music is interesting only in bits. The dialogue is generally hollow and the direction thoroughly stupid.

From the players Madhubala as Yasmin sports pimples which look repulsive and a strange jarring and shrill voice. She does not even impress with her looks, leave alone her acting which isn't exactly her strong point. Shammi Kapoor plays the police officer Anwar whose eyes dilate at the glimpse of Yasmin and whose knees literally shake before the Vazir and looks consistently stupid throughout. Asha Mathur as the Vazir's object of lust looks ugly and stilted. Ajit as Kamran adds another ugly face to the cast. Hiralal plays the Vazir in as stupid a manner as possible and seems to try his best to leave the audience deaf. From the rest, Yashodhara Katju is wasted in a silly, clownish role.

In short, "Naqab" is not even a good time-killer as entertainment. It is just a killer.

NAQAB

Producers:	**Tasviristan**
Language:	**Hindustani**
Screenplay & Dialogue:	**Pandit Girish**
Music:	**Pt. Govind Ram**
Photography:	**Ranjodh Thakur**
Sound:	**Mohan Dadich**
Cast:	**Madhubala, Shammi Kapoor, Asha Mathur, Ajit, Hiralal, Yashodhara Katju etc.**
Released At:	**Super, Bombay**
Date of Release:	**3rd June 1955**

Directed By:
LEKHRAJ BHAKRI

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Photography : BABUBHAI UDESHI *Music :* SHIVRAM

Dialogue : VISHNU MALHOTRA, PRAFULLA DESAI, MAHENDRA SAREL & UMAR KHAIYAM.

Story : DHIRUBHAI DESAI. *Songs :* BHARAT VYAS.

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OUR REVIEW

"Sardar" A Well-directed Crime Thriller

A Glaring Example of Censors' Favouritism

Some of our producers don't seem to be aware of the big row in our country over the subjects of motion pictures. Gyan Mukerji seems to be one of them for he has come out with a crime picture in "Sardar" which deals with dacoits and detectives, without, evidently, realizing that crime themes have been deplored inside and outside our Parliament and that our censors, spurred by "filmindia", are these days busy picking out one Hollywood crime picture after another as being unfit for exhibition in India.

Fortunately "Sardar" is not too deplorable a picture because its hero is a police officer and the audience sympathy is almost throughout directed towards the police and their efforts to capture the gangsters, but still the presentation on the screen of gangsters' exploits and the detective efforts of the police is neither pleasant nor an edifying spectacle. There are hundreds of other pleasant, wholesome and thrilling subjects to base motion pictures on, before our producers have to turn a serious, social malady like crime into entertainment for the masses and thus thoughtlessly ape the obnoxious methods of Hollywood in entertainment. Therefore, though we admire "Sardar's" technical appeal and its slick and smooth portrayal, we disapprove of its theme and wish that Gyan Mukerji had used his directorial skill on a better and more wholesome subject.

Apart from its unpleasant theme, however, "Sardar" is an exceptionally well-directed picture which holds one's interest from the first fade-in to the last fade-out. Having a clever screenplay and pertinent dialogue, the picture moves at a brisk pace providing plenty of suspense and excitement and on the whole making for a taut thriller.

THE TALE OF A DACOIT

The story deals with Thakur Sahib, a hard-working man, the hard work being loot and murder. To sport a respectable facade, Thakur lives in the village Kasara as a respectable elderly man with a young adopted daughter called Champa, while his criminal headquarters happen to be located in a nearby isolated house looked after by a sultry slut, Maina.

When the exploits of Thakur's gang become excessive, the police begin converging on the area round Kasara while the police detective Ranjit lands in the village disguised as a rich, carefree man in search of 'shikar'. Shortly after his arrival Ranjit manages to provoke romantic interest in Champa, Thakur's adopted daughter, as well as identify some stolen jewellery with a local goldsmith. But as the gangsters find the goldsmith becoming dangerous for them, they shoot him dead. As police tighten their vigilance on the village, Thakur becomes alert and sends for his accomplice Manohar for consultations. Manohar arrives but instead of concentrating on crime schemes, he starts concentrating on Champa even to the extent of forcing into her bedroom and molesting her and that brings him death at the hands of Thakur. By now Ranjit trails them close enough to identify Thakur as the leader of the gangsters and after some chase and bullets-filled footage manages to mortally wound the dacoit. Thakur dies repenting and imploring Ranjit to believe him that Champa was never aware that her godfather was a gangster and pleading with him not to treat her unkindly. Ranjit decides to listen to him.

When a woman takes to piping she can rouse many snakes—some of them really dangerous. We don't know what this situation is but Indira's piping has evidently made a big cobra coil round Vivek in "Hari Har Bhakti", a mythological yarn.

WELL PLAYED AND PRODUCED

The production values are quite good. Sets are generally realistic. Except in places photography is good. Sound recording is not bad on the whole but there are some bad dubbing bits. The dialogue is natural and economical. Lyrics range from trite to tolerable while music is quite pleasant. The direction is outstandingly good and is supported by a clever editing job.

From the players, Ashok Kumar as Ranjit does good and convincing work. Bina Rai as Champa looks more eccentric than attractive. Jagdish Sethi as Thakur gives an effective performance. Nigar Sultana as Maina convinces as a gangsters' siren. From the rest, Misra is quite good as the goldsmith in spite of his clumsy make-up while Rama Shukul as lusty Manohar is crude.

In short, "Sardar" is a finely directed crime thriller but an unpleasant theme on the screen. And Gyan Mukerji should realize that in free India it is a crime to make money through a crime-thriller.

SARDAR

Producers:	**Gyan Mukerji Productions**
Language:	**Hindustani**
Story & Screenplay:	**Gyan Mukerji**
Dialogue:	**Vrajendra Gaur**
Lyrics:	**Vrajendra Gaur, Kaif Irfani etc.**
Music:	**Jagmohan**
Photography:	**K. H. Kapadia**
Sound:	**Moola Singh**
Cast:	**Ashok Kumar, Bina Rai, Jagdish Sethi, Nigar Sultana etc.**
Released At:	**Novelty, Bombay**
Date of Release:	**17th June 1955**

Directed By:
GYAN MUKERJI

OUR REVIEW

"Chhora Chhori", A Breezy Little Comedy

Geeta Bali's Bubbling Performance Entertains

Ambitious Pictures' "Chhora Chhori" is a moderate little comedy with fair entertainment. A bit too emphatically designed to tickle and amuse, the picture revolves round an eccentric story of oddities and eccentricities unashamed of occasional silliness. It is flimsy and none-too-furious, but it is quite funny here and there and fairly interesting generally. It is, however, a brave attempt to pick up a page from the lower ladders of life and bring it to the screen as economically as possible.

Most of the interest in the picture is, of course, sustained by Geeta Bali, who once again proves herself to be one of our finest artistes and probably the most versatile. This little woman seems to be highly concentrated animation on two feet, a buoyant bundle of grace, charm and vivacity and a storehouse of talent. She invests this picture with most of its appeal.

A TALE FROM THE STREETS

The whimsical story is set in Khandala where Chandan is a sprightly female who hawks coal for a living and lovingly coos for her clownish lover, Gulu, an assistant in a photographer's studio. Gulu's clowning soon loses him his job and he gets another one as a chauffeur with a rich man with the help of his friend Shankarrao, the rich man's domestic servant. Gulu manages to get Chandan also a job in the same household but complications arise when Chandan is assigned to look after the rich man's young crippled son who happens to be a crackpot and does not wait long before throwing desirous glances at Chandan.

To provide Gulu with more frustration, Chandan's aunt, an old circus woman, who happens to hate Gulu and wants Chandan to work her way up in life anyhow to make more money, also lands as a servant in the household. Soon after this the lovers are separated as Gulu is sacked and Chandan prevailed upon to accompany the crack invalid on a journey. On the train, the young invalid plans some lustful scheme against Chandan, but is never able to execute it faced with her bold innocence and realizing his mental perversion commits suicide. This accident makes Chandan return home and after some more separation, during which Gulu discovers for himself a well-to-do Christian 'mother', the two are united accidentally, but happily.

The story which seems to be a rear-window view of a Parsi crank's household, is tenuous and contains many unamusingly odd moments and items like the invalid's rather unusual characterisation and the abstruse scenes of a Christian woman insisting on claiming Gulu to be her long lost son. But the screenplay provides numerous funny situations and many chuckles.

GEETA SCORES

The production values are average. Sets are very few but not bad. Photography is fairly good generally. Sound recording is erratic. Kidar Sharma's lyrics, dialogue and direction are quite good for a comedy.

From the players, Geeta Bali as Chandan, turns and twists, runs and rolls, loves and fights, cries and mimics—all in one pleasant, efficient performance. Agha plays her lover Gulu and does quite well, though he is overshadowed by Geeta Bali. Pessi Patel as the rich man and Tony as his invalid son are not bad. The rest generally provide good comical support.

In short, "Chhora Chhori" is a fair entertainer and a moderate comedy characterised by zest and zanyism.

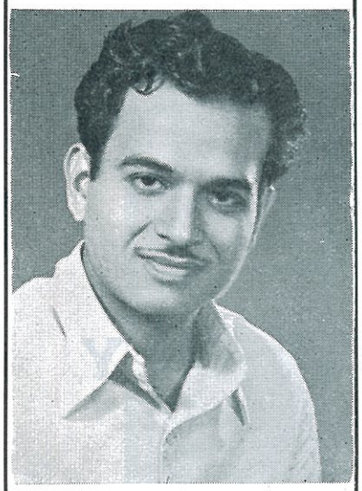
CHHORA CHHORI

Producers:	**Ambitious Pictures**
Language:	**Hindustani**
Story:	**Vikram Sharma**
Screenplay, Lyrics & Dialogue:	**Kidar Sharma**
Music:	**Roshan**
Photography:	**D. K. Mehta**
Sound:	**V. S. Rane**
Cast:	**Geeta Bali, Agha, Pessi Patel, Toni etc.**
Released At:	**Kumkum, Bombay**
Date of Release:	**24th June 1955**

Directed by:
KIDAR SHARMA

Sad and worried! Poverty fogs their mirror of beauty and brings clouds into their lives. Shashikala gives a fine performance in "Sitara", a social romance.

NEW FACE for SCREEN



Screen-acting is the life's ambition of this Gujarati young man. He is 25 years old, 5′ 3″ in height and weighs 115 lbs. He speaks Hindi very fluently and has a phenomenal memory. If there is a producer interested in this new face please contact Box No. 1503, "filmindia"

ANOTHER HIT ON THE SETS NOW

"CHHOO MANTAR"

Starring

★ SHYAMA ★ KARAN DEWAN ★ JOHNNY WALKER
★ SUNDER ★ AMAR ★ ANITA GUHA
and OM PRAKASH

Music
O. P. NAYYAR

SONGS
M. SULTANPURI

DIRECTION
M. SADIQ

Photography
MINOO BILLIMORIA

ART
MAJID A. A.

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NIGAR SULTANA—

One good thing about a jumper is that it allows jumpers to jump without permitting the censors to jump on them. With a new hairdo in addition this one has created quite a bizzare effect in Indian womanhood. Let us see what Nigar is about in "Mastani", a romantic theme directed by Dhirubhai Desai for Sharad Productions.

A MILESTONE OF M

PAKSHIRAJA'S

AZAAD

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ENTERTAINMENT TAX—RS. 12,39,386/-

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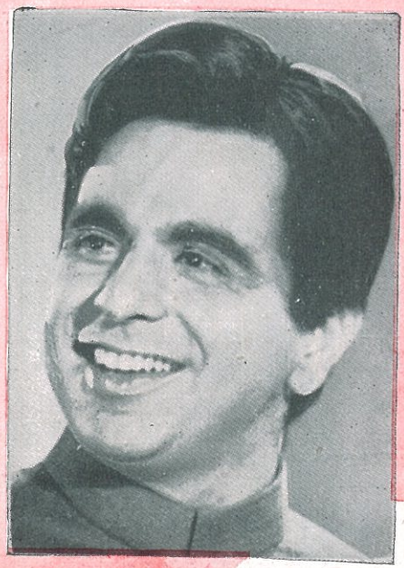
WITH TOP STARS LIKE

DILIP KUMAR

★

MEENA KUMARI



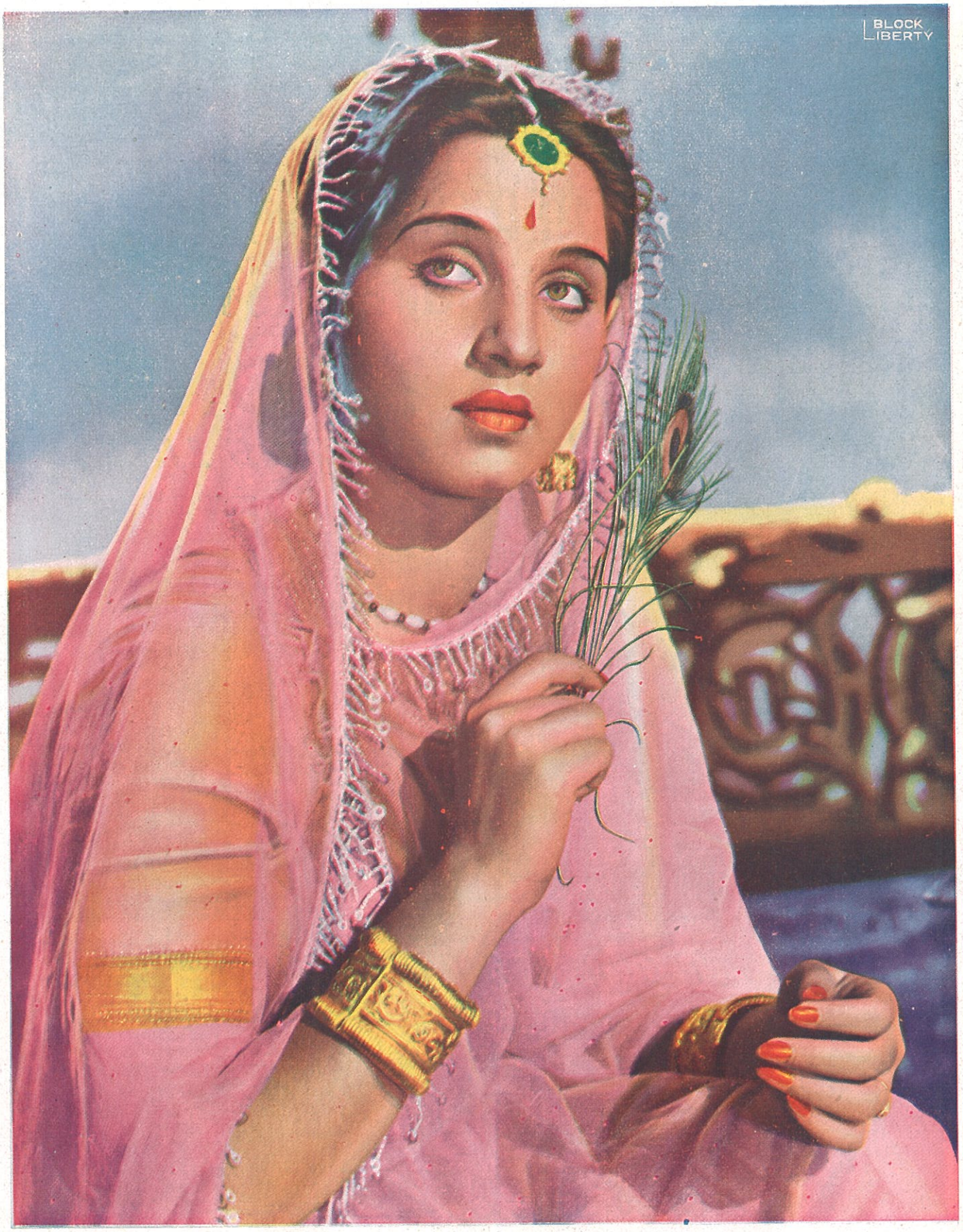
AND

A GRAND SUPPORTING CAST

MUSIC:
C.RAMCHANDRA

LYRICS:
RAJENDRA KRISHNA

DIRECTION
S.M.S.NAIDU



INDIRA—

Devotion evidently has a stern expression, otherwise why would Indira, a newcomer, look so decisive in design in "Hari Har Bhakti", a devotional subject produced and directed by C. Raghuvir for Raghuvir Chitra Niketan?

★ **That is virgin innocence which looks alarmed as soon as it sees even the faintest male shadow on the horizon. But then it soon gets used to these ghosts as years bring a new spring into life. Watch Nutan, the most beautiful charmer of the screen today, in "Seema", a romantic tale produced and directed by Amiya Chakravarty.**

MONEY WITHOUT MEANING

Eugene F. Sutter, Jr., a 22-year-old Yale University student, refused to accept a legacy worth Rs. 16,90,000 left to him by his father. Sutter said: "I do not want this money—for moral and political reasons. I have two hands and a head of my own."

The court gave an interesting ruling. Judge William T. Collins held: "The donee's insistence that he is a member of a free society, with freedom of choice and cannot be yoked to this inheritance against his will is supported by law. Reluctantly, therefore, the court holds the renunciation valid and effective. Centuries ago, the Roman poet Lucretius enunciated the truism that 'what is food to one may be poison to others'."

Eugene has so far received Rs. 1,30,000 from a trust fund of his father but he has donated nearly all of it to various charitable and political organizations. Eugene's father invented the permanent wave machine and amassed a huge fortune.

Imagine a windfall like this to an Indian film producer! He would die a thousand deaths to get a lakh of rupees!

THE ETERNAL CATHOLICS

The romantic Italian is more interested these days to know things about Bruna Vecchio, the 18-year-old Italian beauty, who was expelled from a Catholic Convent because she appeared in a Bikini suit on the cover of a weekly magazine, than about their Premier Mario Scelba and the Cabinet reshuffle.

Bruna's father, a Milanese lawyer, appealed against the expulsion saying, "There are in Italy no such crimes as 'flagrant beauty' or 'premeditated beauty'. Besides I have paid school fees for a full year and my daughter is entitled to lessons until the very last day." The nuns took back Bruna, though she is segregated from the other girls.

The starting point was when the nuns were broad-minded enough to allow Bruna to attend the "Miss Italy" contest last year. Though she was considered the most beautiful girl, she was not selected because she was only 17 and the contest was for girls of 18 and over. Bruna, the moral winner, won popular acclaim and her photograph in a Bikini suit appeared in a magazine.

The most unconcerned person in this controversy is Bruna herself who naively says: "The more they talk about me the better. I am looking forward to a film career."

IN OLD ITALY

In the little town of Palm in Southern Italy, a modern Romeo and Juliet scene was enacted by a couple using revolvers in the 'western' gunman fashion.

Maria-Rosa Soecella, 20, thought that Giovanni Romeo,

28, slandered her. In temper, she drew a revolver out of her bag and shot at him. With blood flowing, Romeo fired at the woman who was running away. One of Romeo's friends went to his rescue and also fired a shot.

The fight ended but not before seven passers-by were slightly hurt. Romeo was taken to hospital in a serious condition while Maria-Rosa and Romeo's friend were arrested.

NEW HINDUS

The District Judge, Campbellpur, Pakistan, has upheld the judgement of the Rawalpindi Civil Judge that Qadianis are non-Muslims and not a sect of Muslims and that a Qadiani woman cannot remain a wife of a Muslim according to Islamic Shariat. The judgement was given in the suit filed by Umatul Karim wife of Captain Naziruddin for payment of alimony (huq mehr).

Captain Naziruddin divorced his wife on the plea that she was a Qadiani. She sued her husband for her "huq mehr" but the Civil Judge held that her marriage was invalid, she being a Qadiani and that no "huq mehr" was due to her. On appeal against this judgement, The District Judge held as follows:

1. Muslim theologians agree that Prophet Mohammed was the last prophet and that no prophet was to follow him.

2. Muslim theologians also agree that whosoever does not believe that Mohammed was the last prophet was outside the pale of Islam.

3. Muslim theologians also agree that Qadianis do not believe that Mohammed was the last prophet and are therefore non-Muslims.

NEW REGIMENTATION

Soviet Russia has started a new campaign against bigamous marriages, runaway fathers, immorality, drunkenness, through its various papers, like Pravda, The Red Star, Komsomol Pravda (dedicated to Young Communists) and Literary Gazette.

Though concerned mainly with low morals, the new campaign condemns alcoholism as "beneath the dignity of the Soviet man." It is emphasised more and more that no matter how good a man may be at his work, failure to live up to 'Communist ethics' in his private life, may result in dismissal from his job and even expulsion from the Communist Party.

Communists think the American jazz is immoral while cheek-to-cheek dancing in public places is regarded as 'bourgeois behaviour'. Last year Soviet Russia launched a regular campaign against drinking as it resulted in an increase of crime, damage to public property and absenteeism from work in factories and on collective farms. There was then a ban on the sale of vodka in kiosks and the situation improved a little after that.

Low morals according to Communists are a "survival of capitalism." These 'survivals' are rare in Russia, the press says, but they still exist.

The Army newspaper 'Red Star' said, "High Communist morality must continue in the future to be one of the most important tasks of the commanders, political organs and party organisations. It is in no way possible to be liberal with people who deviate in their conduct from the norms of socialist morals and in this way disgrace the noble name of the serviceman of the Army of the socialist state."

The Literary Gazette wrote an editorial condemning "idlers, self-seekers, people of low moral standards and double-faced people." A case of a married student, who flirted with a new girl friend every time, was quoted. Fellow students decided to get rid of the married student and his girl friend because of "breaking up a family." The student body expelled them from their youth organisation and asked for their expulsion from the University.

It is a good sign Communists are getting morality-bound. Perhaps they are becoming more human.

It is not always sex. Woman's love is often a mother's love. Vyjayantimala and Sunil Dutt, a newcomer, make a new love-team in "Kismet-Ka-Khel", a thrilling love story produced and directed by Kishore Sahu.

NEHRU'S SECRET

To the average Indian whose life expectancy is 32 years, any interest in gerontology seems far-fetched. But for the average American whose life expectancy has reached the 70-year mark, we can understand his desire to prolong life as much as possible. In fact, in many western nations, where life expectancy is high, gerontologists have done research for years to find out the secret that separates life from death.

One of the foremost gerontologists today is Dr. Anton Julius Carlson, emeritus professor of physiology at the University of Chicago, President of the National Society for Medical Research, etc., who at 80, bubbles with life and devotes nine hours a day studying the problems of ageing.

Dr. Carlson thinks that man has a capacity to live up to 150, so he should aim to become a centenarian. In spite of research, the process of ageing and its causes are still not clearly known. The digestive system is said to be one of the most durable organ systems in the body and can keep a man going for 100 years or more provided it is not diseased or abused. As a rule, the metabolic processes slow down with age while mental faculties remain keen and alert till 65 and in many cases up to 80 and beyond.

Some gerontologists agree with Oliver Wendell Holmes that "one of the best way to insure a long life is to make a a careful and wise selection of grandparents." But since you cannot choose your grandparents, the next thing to do is to select a suitable environment.

Dr. Carlson's assistant, Frederick Hoelzel, has contributed to our knowledge of nutrition by acting as "the human guinea pig" for more than thirty years. Frederick, who suffered from weak digestion, was obsessed with his trouble and decided to try experiments on himself. Once he fasted for 1001 hours. He is 66 now and still works with Dr. Carlson who refers to him as "this kid".

Dr. Carlson is rather particular about the psychological aspect of gerontology after following all the do's and don'ts of correct living. One of his maxims is, if you don't want to age, "Never stop learning". If the mind is not used, then it becomes rusty, just like a muscle. He recommends work as a physical and mental therapeutic.

Says Dr. Carlson in his Swedish-accented English: "Do you vant to know my magic biologic formula? It is the 3 W's and the 3 D's. It means Vork, Vork, Vork from diaper days to death."

And that is the magic formula that makes our beloved Prime Minister Pandit Nehru look younger and brighter as he adds years gracefully with every birthday to his little frame of 140 pounds.

THE FASTING "FAKIR"

Fakir Burman, who had enclosed himself in a glass coffin with several poisonous snakes as his companions, on March 16, created a world record in fasting at Marseilles. This time he fasted for 99 days and broke his own earlier record of 92 days and 5 hours.

Fakir Burman's only nourishment during this trying period was 300 litres of salt. He was extremely weakened at the end of the fast and was not in a condition to absorb solid food for some days.

The world is never short of crazy people. Fakir evidently gets a kick out of life by fasting.

MAN PAYS

A French court recently gave an interesting ruling in the case of a Parisian husband whose wife eloped with another man in his car. In the process of eloping, the wife, Madame Lauchaume, caused an accident, knocking down a trombone player. The injured man claimed damages and the husband was held responsible for the accident caused by his wife. His appeal was rejected by the court and he had to pay the damages.

So he lost three things—his wife, his car and some money. In France, a husband is held responsible for the accidents caused by his wife—even while she is eloping. In India modern husbands pay for all the accidents their wives meet with in ballrooms and cardrooms—even for the strange-looking babies that come home.

BLACK IVORY

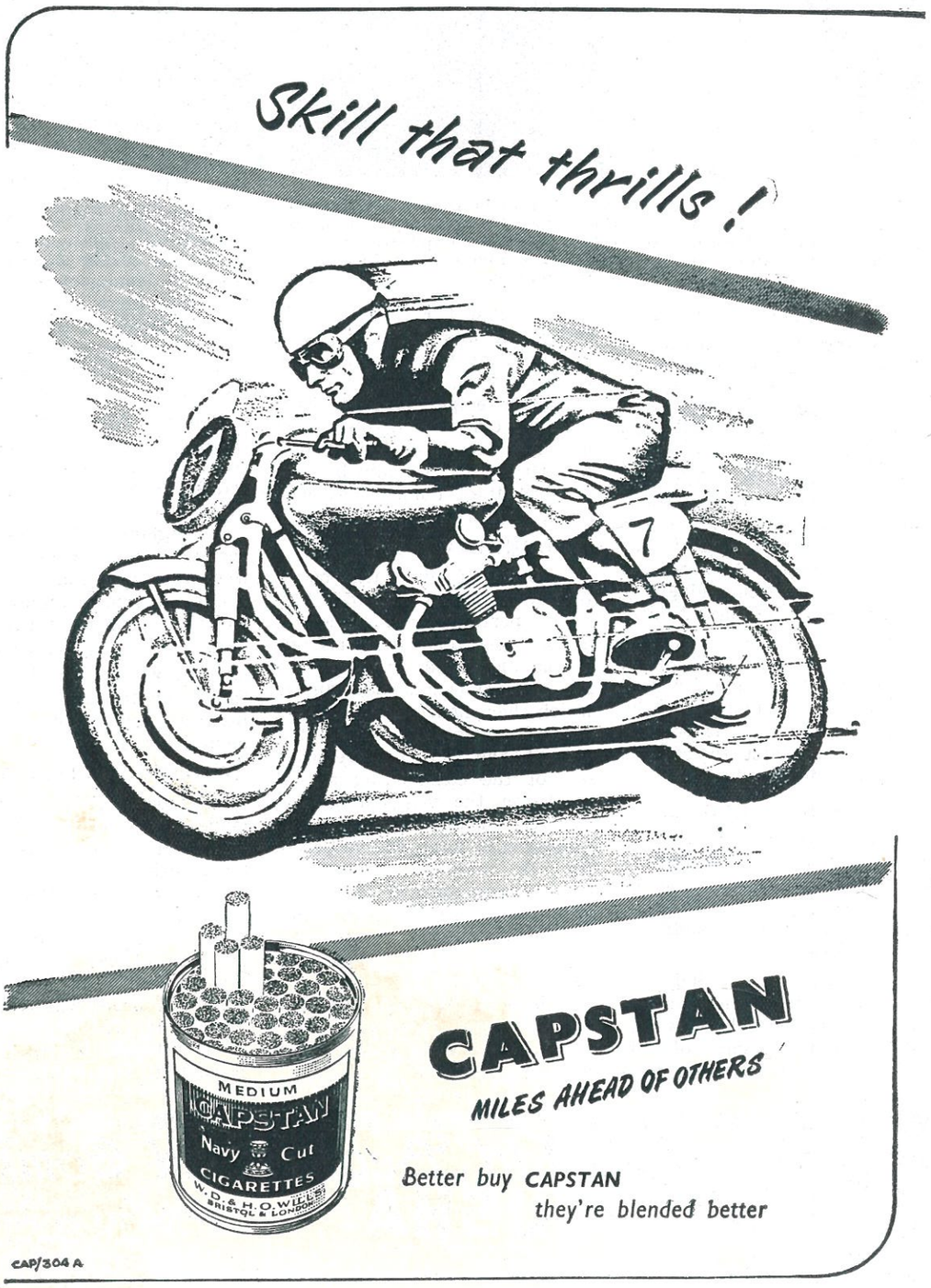
French Rev. Robert La Graviere, a councillor of the French Union, made a serious charge before the Congress of the mainly Catholic Popular Republican Movement at Marseilles on May 26 that there was a lively slave trade functioning between French Africa and certain Arab countries. He wanted the issue to be discussed by the United Nations.

Using religious pilgrimages as an excuse, Rev. La Graviere said that whole truckloads of Negroes were sold to Arab countries by rich citizens of French West Africa and equatorial Africa. The Negroes accompanied them on pilgrimages to Arabia so that they could be sold there. The current price of a Negro varies from 200 to 400 thousand francs (about 550 to 1100 dollars).

It took a brave Abraham Lincoln to abolish slavery in America in the last century. The United Nations, the world's biggest talking shop, can merely discuss slave trade at best and add another subject to its agenda.

ANOTHER RUSSIAN FIRST

On May 31, 1955, a new imposing statue of Afanasi Nikitin, the famous Russian traveller, and a merchant of Tver, was unveiled by the Chairman of the executive Committee of the Kalinin City Soviet Bakulin, on the banks of the historic Volga,



This back-to-back and yet eyes-cocked pose in romance is a considerable strain on the eyes and the nerves. But young people often take these impossible poses to explain possible complications. Let us see what Shammi and Geeta Bali are about in "Miss Coca Cola", a breezy romance.

at a well-attended ceremony.

According to the Russians, Afanasi Nikitin was the first to discover India and was on the scene long before the Portuguese Vasco De Gama. Moreover Afanasi made the trip to India even in those days (15th century) to improve the relationship between the peoples of the two great countries. Mr. K.P.S. Menon, the Indian Ambassador, also made a speech eulogizing the services of Afanasi Nikitin to Russia and India.

To twist history, Russians are prepared to glamourize even a merchant belonging to the bourgeois class, — something which goes against their basic proletarian philosophy.

HE SAW RED

Mr. Peter Barr of St. Faith's, England, who was blind for the last ten years, as a result of war injuries, was shocked out of his wits when he suddenly recovered his eyesight.

In an argument with his wife, he lost his temper and smacked his fist. Suddenly he saw the first blurred outlines of his wife's head and after ten minutes, he saw her clearly. Said Peter: "It was the first time I had seen my wife. I was blind when we were married."

Peter's temper seems to have been an eye-yielding one. Let us hope Mrs. Barr doesn't irritate Hubby Peter again because another fit of temper may lead again to loss of eyesight.

MORE HEART TROUBLE

A team of five surgeons at Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago, performed a successful double operation under refrigeration anesthesia on Mrs. Lorraine Mackowiak, 25, during which her heart was stopped twice for a total of 16 minutes.

First the surgeons removed one of the constricting muscle bands on the ventricle in 4½ minutes. Then the heart was massaged and the patient rested for 45 minutes. Again the wound was opened a second time and the second constricting muscle band was removed in 3½ minutes. The heart was then reactivated.

This is the first time that doctors removed two such strictures in the same operation on an idle heart.

The housewife, Mrs. Lorraine, was reported to be hale and hearty when she left the hospital.

HER NEW LITTER

An African woman, Mrs. Judith Tandzeni of Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, gave birth to quintuplets—three girls and two boys. One of the girls died on the 100-mile journey by road. The mother and the four children were admitted to the Salisbury Maternity Home.

Judith has 10 other children including two sets of triplets. In Russia, she would have been a heroine by now for contributing so generously to the population.

CRACKING UP

Dr. Colman Henton, a British psychiatrist, told the annual conference of the Association of Hospital Management Committees, that there were over three million people in Britain suffering from "emotional difficulties" resulting in mental or nervous disability.

Every year the National Health Service dispensed one-third of its prescriptions towards "calming the nerves" of these neurotics.

In England and Wales, 65,000 persons with mental defects were receiving community care while an equal number were looked after in mental hospitals.

That is the price of modern civilization. It creates a new thirst for the better things of life and soon leaves behind a mental wreck.

ABNORMAL BRAIN WAVES

Electroencephalography has made rapid strides since 1924 and today there are several laboratories all over America specializing in this useful science.

EEG, as it is called, is an analysis of the electrical activity of the brain. By recording abnormal brain waves, one can detect any type of brain injury or neurological illness. It is also possible to locate injured or diseased regions quite accurately, thus avoiding needless surgical exploration. EEG was used extensively on Army and Navy personnel during World War II.

A new innovation is the "toposcope" with 22 cathode ray tubes attached, with suitable leads, to 22 different areas of the head. From the way in which the tubes light up to different degrees of brilliance, the operator can know which portions of the brain respond to different stimuli, and in what sequence.

Still our knowledge of the brain at work is insufficient. EEG has to unravel this mystery in the future years. In the meantime it may be profitably tried on our Congress leaders.

A BRAVE WOMAN

When doctors informed Mrs. George de Mohrenschildt, professionally known as Dr. Wynne Sharples, that her two children, Sergei and Nadya, were suffering from a strange malady called mucoviscidosis—congenital, hereditary and fatal—she decided to study all about this disease, otherwise known as pancreatic fibrosis.

Dr. Sharples has started a campaign to collect funds for the new Children's Endocrine Research Foundation at 2300, Westmoreland Street in Philadelphia, a non-profit organization for research in pancreatic fibrosis and other allied diseases. We admire her courage.

In pancreatic fibrosis, which is due to an inherited glandular defect, the mucous glands of the lungs are affected, causing early death. In Babies Hospital, from 1939 to 1955 there were 342 cases. Out of these 167 are still living owing to pencillin. One has reached the age of 19, two others are 17.

BANANA GIRL

Susan Morgan of Louisiana, U. S., a five-year-old girl, has consumed nearly 20,000 bananas since her third birthday. She is suffering from a rare stomach complaint that doctors have advised her to eat bananas in

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plenty till she is 15.

The State Welfare Board sanctioned Susan's father eight dollars a month to buy bananas for the little girl. Doctors expect that stomach complaint to disappear when Susan grows to be 15.

MONKEYS ALSO HELP

Dr. William T. Mustard of Toronto performed a successful heart operation on two children in which their blood was circulated artificially through the lungs of dead monkeys. During this time the surgeon repaired their damaged hearts.

At the University of Minnesota, a dog's lungs were used in similar operations and it is estimated that there is a chance of four surviving in every such ten cases.

GOLDEN EGGS

During the last twenty years, poultry farming has undergone radical changes resulting in stream-lined hens and fowls that behave in an orderly manner and surprise the farmer. The assembly-line technique saves a lot of labour and also helps in getting a superior product. And Americans believe in mechanized methods in every walk of life.

In a modern egg factory owned by A. J. Raskins of Waterbury, Connecticut, he collects 25,000 eggs a day. The eggs are additionally sorted out automatically according to their weights and sizes. One mechanized plant of this type enables one man to handle 9000 hens compared with one man to 2000 on smaller, less equipped farms.

The average annual production of the American hen today is 168 eggs as against 220 in 1930. There has also been a phenomenal increase in the gross income earned by America's poultry industry from $799,000,000 in 1934 to $3,455,-000,000 in 1952. Americans are evidently great chicken-eaters because they consume 888 million broilers annually.

In California's Pierce School of Agriculture, Gene Slattery injects dyes into 16-day-old eggs and they become colourful. Another breeder has developed a strain of hens which lay eggs in all colours—green, pink, yellow etc,—without any outside interference. It looks as if Americans are teaching their birds to become as fastidious as their women.

When a young woman enters a gambling den she asks for more trouble than she can meet. But seeking trouble seems to be the aim of modern girls in slacks. Shashikala has probably come to claim Karan Dewan in "Bahu", a domestic tale.

CALL HER "VYJAYANTIMALA"

A new breed of hen called "Madras Blue" has been evolved by the Government Poultry Research Station at Madras.

"Madras Blue" is a cross between two indigenous birds, Kalahasti of Chittoor and Denki of Vizag and it lays annually 100-130 eggs while the normal annual yield of country hens is 50 eggs.

HAIR-SPLITTING

Dr. Leon A. Hausman of New Brunswick, N. J., a pioneer in the science of identifying hair, recently came into news by identifying the hair from the alleged "scalp" of an "abominable snowman" as belonging to a centuries-old cap made from the skin of some large animal.

Dr. Leon Hausman wrote his first thesis 35 years ago which made him a hair expert. In 1928 he used hair identification for the first time in a criminal trial. Since then Dr. Hausman has testified in a variety of cases and set to rest criminals or saved the innocent from being hanged.

Each hair contains hundreds of tiny cells and these cells form distinctive patterns just as fingerprints do. And very rarely do two persons have identical hair. Dr. Hausman has a fine collection of about 3000 human and animal hairs. One remarkable specimen is a hair that is probably half a million years old.

Even a delicate hair has so much to reveal. Is that why they say life hangs by a hair?

RACING TO DEATH

The French Government banned motor car road races throughout France from June 13, 1955, till such time when new international rules would be framed.

The banning came in the wake of the grim, heart-rending tragedy at Le Mans during the 24-hour race when French driver Pierre Levegh's Mercedes Benz smashed into another car and exploded, killing 85 and injuring 80.

In the whole history of auto-racing this was considered to be the worst disaster and there was a public demand for greater safety precautions for competitors and spectators. The auto races used to be held on regular roads rather than on specially geared tracks. Britain's Mike Hawthorn won the race at an average speed of 107 m.p.h. but it was a joyless victory.

FRANCE CALLING

According to the figures supplied by the French National Institute of Statistics, there are nearly 4,500,000 unattached women in France out of which 1,500,000 are unmarried and nearly 3,000,000 widows.

There are 1,200,000 bachelors and 736,000 widowers.

There are only 1,500,000 residents in France who are aliens in spite of millions of foreigners visiting France.

France is evidently a paradise for the sex-hunter with 4,500,000 unattached women planted all over the country. But how many of them are young and fit for wooing? That is what we are aching to know.

SOWING IN BLOOD

The Delhi State Government is considering a scheme whereby manure can be prepared form blood which goes waste at Delhi's slaughter houses. If approved, the scheme will form part of Delhi's Second Five-Year Plan.

In Delhi, 4,35,000 animals are

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Ecstasy! We would have willingly accepted that but we see the stomach folds and begin to wonder about the age. Even then Usha Kiran strikes a graceful pose in "Aan Baan", a tale of love told with sighs and smiles.

slaughtered every year in its three slaughter houses. It is estimated that about 2500 tons of waste blood got from slaughtering can be converted into manure. The total quantity of blood manure that is likely to be obtained from this quantity in five years is calculated at 1000 tons which can be used in 14,000 acres of land.

The conversion of waste blood into blood manure will require a technical staff and some equipment. Blood manure, according to agricultural experts, improves the agricultural production.

BED INSURANCE

In Thailand, a new type of insurance has come into vogue these days with many broken marriages.

For instance a couple takes out an insurance policy at a basic monthly premium of Rs. 6-10-0. If one party divorces or deserts the other, the deserted person receives about Rs. 1100. If the couple stays married for an agreed period, they receive Rs. 2200 at the end of that period.

In a recent court case one man was summoned to court for allegedly operating an unregistered company for insuring marriages.

FASTER AND FASTER

Lockheed Aircraft Corporation of U.S. has begun the construction of the first U.S. commercial turboprop (jet plus propeller) airliner. By 1958 turboprop airliners will be in the air. American Airlines has ordered 35 of these planes for 65 million dollars.

Called the "Electra", the new plane will be better than the British Vickers Viscount and carry 64 passengers. The Electra will have four engines and fly at 410-440 m.p.h. for flights up to 2000 miles.

Meanwhile Douglas, another aircraft company, has taken up the construction of a true jet DC-8 to seat 80-125 passengers. It will fly non-stop across the states in less than five hours.

CHEAP FLYING

At the French annual air show held in Paris in June, "Sipa 1000" or "Flying Scooter", a small single-engined monoplane attracted a lot of attention.

The Flying Scooter can satisfy your love of air travel for £400, less than the price of the smallest Renault car. This privately produced machine took 32 days to build. It flies 31 miles to the gallon and has a speed of 100 miles an hour.

They don't, however, say whether "Sipa 1000" always descends to earth.

RCA MUSIC SYNTHESIZER

Radio Corporation of America gave its first public demonstration of the electronic music synthesizer to a group of engineers and musicians. The effect was marvellous and it is quite likely that with more research, even human speech may be synthesized.

The synthesizer was developed at the Research Laboratory of R.C.A. at Princeton, N. J. To begin with, the acoustic properties of various musical sounds are analysed. General properties of the desired musical sounds are punched on to paper. Then the musical sounds are synthesized through electronic circuits.

The complicated machine consists of 6 electronic panels with switches and plugs for various electronic set-ups. There are more than 300 electronic circuits in this machine.

NEW AMERICAN "WORLD"

Roger W. Babson, an American financier, donated a huge revolving globe to the Babson Institute of business administration.

Considered to be the world's largest globe, it is 28 feet in diameter and taller than a two-storey house. It weighs 25 tons and is made of steel. It cost nearly a quarter of a milion dollars to construct. It will be used as a visual aid in the teaching of history, geography, export and import trade, etc.

Let us hope the gigantic globe helps the Americans to look at the little world around them with more understanding.

SOUND PROOF

General Electric's power transformer department has built a fine Sound Laboratory for studying characteristics of transformer-sounds.

Called an anechoic chamber, the world's largest "quiet" room is without echoes and is 43' high and 58' wide. The room has 5' thick walls for keeping out outside noise. The ceiling and floor consist of more than 12,000 fibre-glass wedges arranged in a pattern. The chamber has a solid lining of copper weighing 20,900 pounds.

In this room, they will try to find out ways of making quieter power transformers.

COMPETING WITH GOD

Dr. Stanley Miller, a noted scientist of the California Institute of Technology, has produced artificially for the first time what may be the material that spawned the first primitive life cell on earth.

Dr. Stanley Miller, however, said that bringing life out of the organic compounds by chemical and electrical means "would be a long, long, long, process."

Dr. Stanley Miller's experiment was described in a report he delivered to the Pacific Division meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

LUMINOUS PLANTS

Dr. Bernard L. Strehler, assistant professor of biochemistry at the University of Chicago,

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and Dr. William Arnold of Oak Bridge National Laboratory, have discovered in the course of their experiment that plants emit a faint red light that cannot be seen with the naked eye.

They are now trying to isolate that substance responsible for emitting that light. Dr. Strehler said, "All of these findings were made possible by the study of fireflies and luminous bacteria. It is now thought that there is a close relationship between light emission which releases energy and photosynthesis, which stores energy."

INDIAN TEETH

The Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute in India has begun to manufacture artificial teeth from dental porcelain. The dental porcelain is made from washed china clay, felspar, quartz and nepheline syenitex. Though in the experimental stage, these artificial teeth have good commercial possibilities.

India spends Rs. 1,500,000 annually on the import of porcelain teeth. So we may able to save this expense if the Indian produced artificial teeth get going in the market. And let us hope that at least these artificial teeth learn to bite something more than mere neutrality.

MORE EAR POISONING

The Soviet Radio Industry is manufacturing more and more radios these days, so that the common man may be well fed with Soviet progaganda continuously.

A new one which has appeared in the Russian market is the M|R Radio. This radio has 11 tubes and two amplifiers. Another one is Byelarus Radio manufactured by the Minsk Radio Works. It is a 14 tube-6 range super heterodyne of the first class.

Other radios are called Riga, Zvezda, Chaika, Minsk R-7, Daugava, etc.

AND THE BULL

Dr. Clive Balch, working at the National Institute for Dairying Research, Reading, has found that a cow stays awake practically the whole of her life. She dozes for a while but never loses consciousness. The reason is she spends most of her time chewing the cud and this necessitates her keeping awake.

The wide-awake cow may give some consolation to the high-strung insomniac.

NOSY ABOUT VENUS

Though Venus is the planet nearest to earth, the length of of the Venusian day has been a debatable problem for a long time. Recently Gerard P. Kuiper, professor of astronomy in the University of Chicago's Yerkes Observatory, took some ultraviolet photographs of Venus which give a definite clue to the length of the rotation of Venus and also to the location of its poles.

The photographs show the disc of Venus being covered with three bright and three dark bands formed along parallel circles on the surface of the planet. Kuiper thinks that these bands are parallel to the equator of Venus. The equator of Venus lies at an angle of 32 degrees to its path in the heavens. Because of these parallel bands, Kuiper argues that Venus must be rotating pretty fast on its own axis, may be a few weeks and definitely not longer than 225 days.

WHISKERS OF THE WORLD

At a meeting of the Metropolitan Long Island Subsection of the American Chemical Society, Columbia University scientists estimated that the universe came into existence 4,800,000,000 years ago plus or minus 200,000,000 years.

Dr. J. Lawrence Kulp based his calculation from the isotopic composition of lead on earth and in the meteorites that fall on the earth.

Lead is made up of a mixture of isotopes (chemical cousins) of four atomic weights, 204, 206, 207 and 208. Lead 204 is one of the four primordial elements formed at the time of creation. The other three isotopes formed as the end-products of radio-active decomposition of uranium and thorium.

The rate of decay of these elements is accurately known. The changes in the mixture of chemical cousins that form earthly lead as opposed to meteoritic lead can be determined with the help of a cosmic clock.

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The Eastofix is costlier than other dyes now on sale but the wide range of colours and the quality are factors to be considered.

A "NOO" THREAT

General William Creasy, the U.S. Army's Chief Chemical Officer, told a gathering of chemists in New York, that invisible gas and germ weapons may have to be used in case of a future war.

Nerve gases were even more dangerous than atom bombs because they could produce large-scale insanity on unprotected people. The devices against such weapons include a type of wall-board for shelter lining which filters gas, bacteria and radio-active dust.

The future of the world seems to be complete annihilation with the progress of science.

MEASURING TIME

When we sport a delicate watch and proudly announce the exact time, little do we realise the terrific amount of brain and industry that went into its making. The world's monopoly of watches and timepieces rests with Switzerland which exports 33 million watches and movements per year. They are made in 2500 different shops and factories by nearly 70,000 men and women.

Because of the necessity of skilled labour, the watch workers are paid 20% more than any other Swiss artisans and they are the highest paid in Europe. Out of the 1400 operations that go into making a timepiece, 1000 are still done by expert hands. Women are particularly employed for the precise job of attaching the hairspring, a job which requires delicate handling.

There are seven Swiss horological schools which train the Swiss in watchmaking. Specialisation and perfection of knowledge have resulted in a variety of watches that give you solar time, lunar time and the time in any part of the world. At the last Olympic games, the Swiss developed a camera watch which recorded photo finishes and set down the time elapsed. The Swiss were the first to combine nickel and steel in the modern hairspring and they were also the first to put in jewels in watches as bearings.

The Swiss also make play pieces to satisfy the whims of the rich. The smallest watch they have made is the size of a match-head. Then they have begun manufacture of electronic watches.

SPARE TIME INCOME FOR WOMEN

Those women, who have ideas and can draw them on paper and in doing so tell their neighbours how to dress and look smart, can send their ideas and sketches to us and get paid for them. We invite sketches and articles on everything that women do, undo or should do, or wear, don't wear or should wear. And we pay well for these. And we can, if necessary, keep the name a family secret. Write today to: The Editor, Filmindia, Fort, Bombay.

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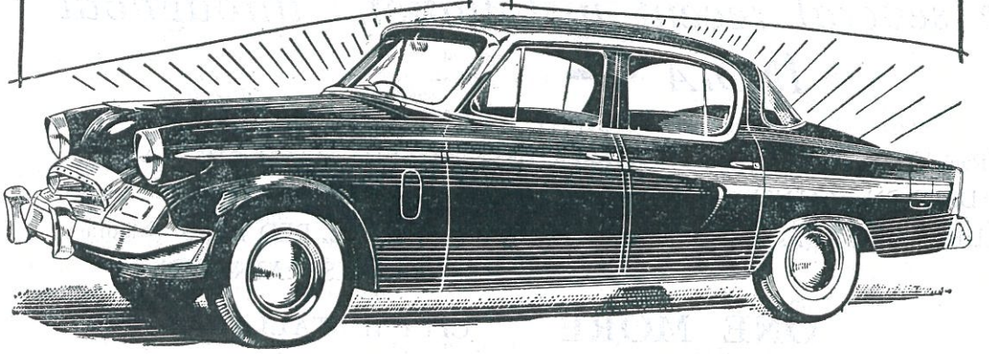

The Studebaker again emerges as the unchallenged leader in styling for 1955, winning first place in 36 elegance contests all over the world.

Inside, the Studebaker is almost the last word in good taste, with striking colour combinations and generously upholstered seats that make you sink back luxuriously, while a powerful engine whisks you away smoothly, soundlessly, effortlessly.

Many other improvements in the 1955 Studebaker make it the car of the year: Ignition Key Starting (Just turn the key and your engine is ready to take off); new air cleaner for noiseless operation; improved fuel pump; new radiator for better cooling; larger clutch and better suspension, all add to driving and riding comfort.

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She has passed the age of terrors. There are no terrors left now. She is at that stage where memories bring ripples of old satisfaction and provoke new expectations. Meena Kumari brings to the screen a mature romance in "Bandish", a social theme.

★

SHANTA APTE CONVICTED

Nagpur, June 21.

Mr. R. G. Bajpai, First Class Magistrate, Nagpur, found film actress Shanta Apte and her brother Baburao Apte guilty under Section 13(A)—obstructing a public servant of the C.P. and Berar Prohibition Act of 1937 and sentenced them to pay a fine of Rs. 500 each. They were, however, acquitted of the charges of possessing and consuming liquor without a permit. They were arrested on April 7, 1954, on charges of possessing and consuming liquor without a permit and assaulting the police and obstructing them in the performance of their duties.

Delivering the judgment, the Magistrate observed, "It is pertinent to note that the act of the accused, Shanta Apte, in giving a push to the police officers and lifting her chappals to assault them was very disgraceful and the police officers acted with calm and restraint and completed the search peacefully in the face of the insult ....I think a sentence of fine will be sufficient to correct the accused persons, teach them a lesson to behave with the public servants courteously and respectfully, and that this will meet the ends of justice."

Both the accused paid the fine in the court.

HIS AT LAST

Hollywood, June 25.

Film actor Robert Taylor, 43, graduated to fatherhood for the first time in his life, when pretty wife Ursula Thiess presented him a 7 lb. 11 ounces son at Santa Monica.

To Bob, the arrival of the son was a thrilling event. He seemed to welcome him even more than a film contract. Ursula, however, has two children by her first husband, this one being her third.

IN MEMORIAM

Vienna, June 26.

Helga Hruby, the 33-year old beautiful Viennese actress, who poisoned her doctor husband allegedly at the instigation of her lover, was sentenced to eight years' hard labour by an Austrian court.

In addition to this sentence of hard labour, the court ordered her to spend every January 7 in solitary confinement in a dark cell in remembrance of the day she poisoned her ex-husband.

PRICE OF GLAMOUR

Bombay, June 6.

On the pretext of getting several persons employed in a film company, M. K. Tambe is alleged to have collected Rs. 15,667 by way

of deposits varying between Rs. 15 and Rs. 150, within a month's time, and disappeared with the money.

The police arrested Ramchandra G. Kharat, alleged to be one of those engaged for collecting deposits on behalf of the bogus film company from employment-seekers. Mr. M. Nasrullah, Presidency Magistrate, ordered the accused to be released on bail.

OLD ENOUGH TO LEAVE

Hollywood, June 14.

Well-known stage, screen and television actor, Walter Hampden, died of a stroke at the age of 75 on June 11, at Los Angeles.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Hampden's first notable success came to him at the age of 26 when he replaced Sir Henry Irving in "Hamlet." He formed a touring repertory company in 1908 and appeared in a variety of Shakespearean roles, proving his versatility and talent.

In his acting career of 54 years, he played leading roles in 26 Shakespearean plays. But his best remembered role is the one of Cyrano de Bergerac which he portrayed more than 1000 times.

He was seen in "Sabrina" recently but Hampden found it difficult to adjust himself to the screen scripts which he often described as "hobbling of dramatic art."

POISONING CHINESE

Peking, June 16.

Communist China produced only 14 feature length films last year. The trouble is that all Chinese-produced films must conform rigidly to the Communist ideology. As there is a dearth of these made-to-order scripts, many film studios were forced to stop production. Every script is censored by the Chinese Communist Ministry of Culture. The film is looked upon as a "vigorous propaganda medium" by Communist China.

Films from Soviet Russia are being increasingly dubbed in Chinese for the Chinese population as Peking doesn't produce many films. One feature length picture from Soviet Russia which has been made much of is "Women Locomotive Drivers" where the dramatic conflict is supplied by a contest between two of the girl students to see which one can run her locomotive more efficiently and win the title of "Labour Hero." That is Communist romance.

Art is being systematically hung by the noose with Communist propaganda clouding the horizon.

HYPOCRITES

Dacca, June 11.

As a mark of protest against the participation of a dancing girl in a school concert, 300 Mullahs suddenly went furious and attacked and wrecked a whole school.

Their angry activities included tearing up library books and school records, destruction of musical instruments, wrecking the stage of the concert hall and shouting of slogans, "Down with dancing girls."

The Mullahs had considered the dancing to be "obscene" and wanted the dancing girl to be kept out of the concert. The request was turned down by the students.

The puritanical Mullahs would probably have had no objection if it had taken place under private auspices.

POPULAR STAGE

New York, June 8.

The American stage affords a variety of entertainment but strangely enough, it has always been a matter of private enterprise. America has no national theatre supported by government funds nor does it get any government subsidy to bear all or even part of the expense of productions. In these days of soaring costs, the financial risk involved in producing a play is frightening but there are art-lovers and gamblers ready to plunge in. In the Yankee phrase, they are known as "angels" or "backers". They advance the money, to cover theatre rentals, cost of scenery and costumes and the salaries of cast and technical crew. The most expensive shows are the musical shows, each one requiring hundreds of thousands of dollars in advance financing.

There are 20,000 'angels' in America who are responsible for the Broadway shows. Broadway in New York is the Mecca of all ambitious actors, actresses, dancers, musicians, etc. Glittering with radiant lights and innumerable neon signs, the fate of many an artist and many a show depends on the whims and fancies of the New York audiences of Broadway. Once a play becomes popular on Broadway, then it is taken to smaller cities.

Though the focal point of the American theatre is Broadway in New York, its authors, actors, producers, directors and technicians are recruited from all over U.S.

During the last decade 1944-1954, Broadway produced 770 plays, out of which 298 were comedies, 225 were dramas, 184 were musicals and 63 miscellaneous. Some of the popular plays in recent years are "Porgy and Bess", "Oklahoma", "A Street Car Named Desire", "Mister Roberts", etc.

The Yankee's fondness for the stage is second nature with him—as great a habit as throwing chewing gum into his mouth at all hours of the day.

PROVOKING 5th AMENDMENT

Guntur, June 8.

Mr. Justice K. Bhimasankaram, Andhra High Court, admitted a

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petition by T. Aswathanarayana, a film exhibitor of Vijayawada, questioning the validity of the Madras Entertainment Tax (Andhra Amendment) Act 1955, levying a tax on every cinematograph show.

His Lordship further directed interim stay of the levy and collection of the show tax.

The complainant contended that the entertainment tax was a tax on profession falling within the meaning of Article 276 of the Constitution of India, according to which no such tax exceeding a sum of Rs. 250 per annum could be levied on any profession, trade or calling. It was represented that the levy of the tax was illegal and unconstitutional.

His Lordship also admitted another petition filed by the same petitioner praying for the issue of a writ of certiorari to the State of Andhra declaring Section 5(3) of the Andhra Cinematograph Act, 1955, as illegal and unconstitutional.

His Lordship ordered notices and directed interim stay of the operation of the notification compelling the exhibition of "approved films" by the petitioner.

GOOD ENGLISHMAN

London, June 24.

British film magnate, J. Arthur Rank, has announced plans of devoting a substantial share of his profits to charity, valued at two million pounds. He is also keen to keep his £61,000,00 group of British cinemas firmly in British hands. He has, therefore, transferred his controlling interest to a trust, while remaining as the chairman of the group.

The Methodist Church, which Arthur Rank always supports, is likely to be benefited the most by his gift.

The transfer of controlling interest to a trust saves Rank from paying death duties and prevents any foreign interest from acquiring control over the Rank group of cinemas.

ARBITRARY ?

Cuttack, June 10.

The popular Bengali film "Ma-O-Chheley" was banned at Cuttack by the District Magistrate without assigning any particular reasons.

A special press show of the film was given before the actual banning. The journalists, however, did not find anything objectionable that might wound the susceptibilities of the people.

KEEPING TWIN BEDS TOGETHER

Hollywood, June 12.

Popular crooner Dick Haymes, who was to be deported to Argentina, on grounds of nationality, won his suit in the Federal Court, U.S.

The court ruling was that Hawaii "is a geographical part of the U.S." So Haymes' re-entry into U.S. in 1953 after visiting Honolulu was not illegal. It was at this time that he fell in love with Rita Hayworth, his present wife.

The Justice Department, U.S., is appealing against the federal court decision.

Dick and Rita seem to be good litigants, with court suits to enliven their life.

CHASING A MIRAGE

Bombay, June 12.

Junior cine artistes and film workers, numbering over 500, observed a one-day token strike, in Bombay on Friday, June 10.

The strikers marched in a procession to the various motion picture establishments in the city, shouting slogans.

Mr. P. M. Padmanabh, President of the Cine Artistes' Association, said that many studios were closed as a result of the strike. The "Demands Day", he observed, was held to focus the attention of the producers on "the vital demands of the junior artistes." Said Padmanabh, "The present state of affairs in the industry is corrupt, dismal and degraded."

The demands of the strikers are : 1. Recognition of their organisation. 2. Timely payment of their wages. 3. Revision of wage scales. 4. Recruitment of studio employees through agents approved by the Association.

Padmanabh is fighting a losing game. Many of the producers are unpunished criminals without a conscience. What do they care for the demands of the junior cine artistes and the workers ?

SILLY JUNIOR

Hollywood, June 20.

A Hollywood TV film producer filed a breach-of-contract suit on film actor John Barrymore Jr., 22, for letting him down and working in movies in England. He claimed dmages of $55,750.

Last year the Connecticut summer theatre brought similar charges against John Barrymore Jr., and took objection to his general misbehaviour, his open squabbles with wife Cara, etc.

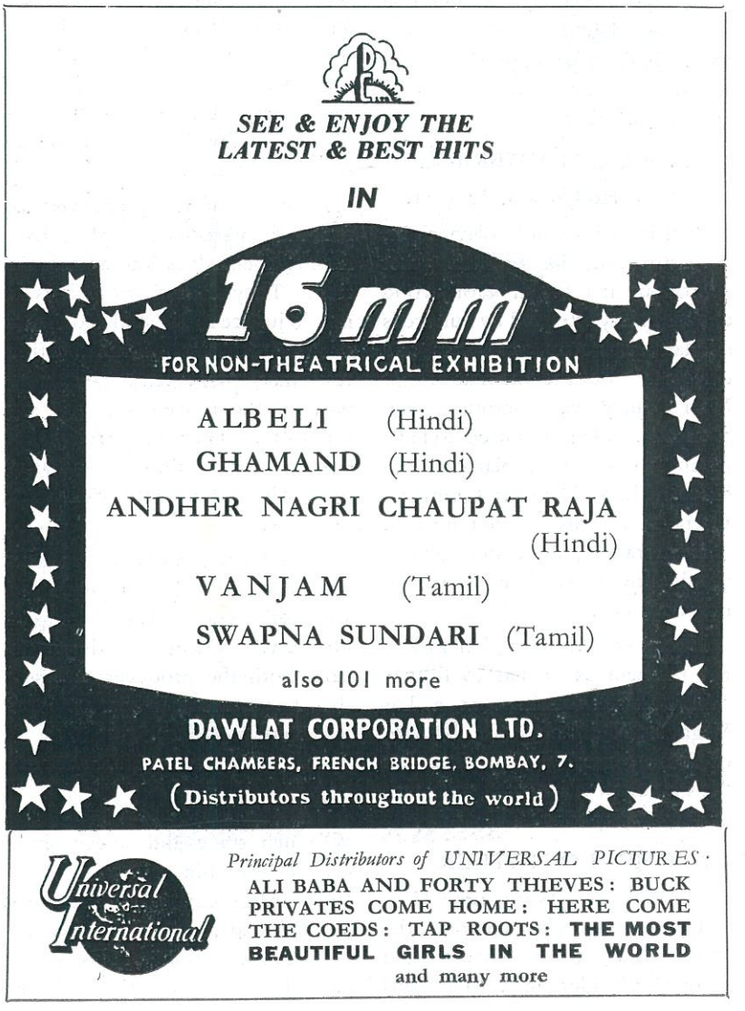
John is courting the wrong type of limelight. The old days of actors indulging in various ecccentricities have disappeared for good.

ONE MORE DIRECTIVE

New Delhi, June 10.

Mr. Shriman Narayan, General Secretary of the Indian National Congress, clarified the stand taken by him regarding censorship, in his letter to Dr. Keskar, published in the press some time ago.

Mr. Narayan said that the suggestion of pre-censorship of film scripts did not mean that this work should be undertaken by the present Central Board of Film Censors. "Some other machinery should be specifically created for this purpose", he added, and that "it is in the interests of the producers themselves to seek such guidance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When spring meets spring, does it rain? It does sometime in woman-nature if not in nature. Nutan and Shubha bring new intrigue to the screen in "Seema", a classic tale of human emotions.

from the very beginning to avoid wastage of money."

We can't understand why the Congress Working Committee wants to dabble in film censorship. Isn't it enough that Congressmen create a mess in other spheres of life ?

COWARD'S EMBRACE

Hollywood, June 11.

British actor and playwright, Noel Coward, 55, was the guest of honour at a lavish Hollywood cocktail party attended by hundreds of glamorous stars, producers and directors. But the one that caught Noel's fancy was charming Jean Simmons. He is reported to have given her a warm, platonic embrace. Hubby Stewart Granger's reactions to this are not known. The embrace was, of course, photographed by the cameramen present on the scene.

Noel Coward is in America at the moment as he has to fulfil a $40,000-week contract at a Las Vegas hotel for a month. Talking of Las Vegas, Noel muttered : "It's a combination of a gold rush and a honky-tonk."

GHOST OF HITLER

Bonn, June 27.

Two German films based on the plot to kill Hitler, have created an uproar in Germany. The hero of both the films is the one-armed, one-eyed Colonel Claus Von Stauffenberg. It was Stauffenberg who placed the time-bomb a few feet away from Hitler at a staff conference in his East Prussian Headquarters. He was later shot in the courtyard of the Berlin War Ministry a few hours after the attempt had failed.

Relatives of the men executed for their part in the plot, have formed themselves into an association. They claim that the films do not do justice to the skill and valour of the members of the wartime resistance movement. The purpose of the movement, they say, was lofty. They were trying "to destroy from within a totalitarian state with all its immorality and illegality."

Both the pictures have somewhat similar titles, "It Happened On July 20" and "The Twentieth Of July." Owing to the agitation, both the producers are sure that the pictures will become popular at the box-office.

HER DOUBLE LENSES

New York, June 10.

French stage and screen actor, Claude Dauphin, married Norma Eberhardt, the popular TV actress. The 25-year-old actress has the unique distinction of possessing natural heterochromatic eyes, one being blue and the other brown.

Claude Dauphin's recent pictures were "The Happy Time" and "Innocents In Paris." The age-gulf between the two is exactly 26 years.

SATHE'S ACTIVITY

Dharwar, June 22.

Mr. D. D. Sathe, Collector of Dharwar, laid the foundation stone of a new open-air theatre to be constructed by the Dharwar Municipality.

The theatre construction will cost Rs.38,000 out of which Rs.25,000 has been contributed by the Government of Bombay. The president of the municipality said that a plan of constructing a maternity home, a swimming pool, quarters for Harijans and a slaughter house, was under construction.

The Bombay Municipality's open-air theatre is at the discussion stage for the last so many years.

DESERTING

Calcutta, June 21.

East Pakistan will soon have an up-to-date film studio. Located at Dacca, it will be the first of its kind in East Pakistan.

The studio is Government-sponsored and some German experts of UFA have arrived to assist in the production of films.

Some of the Bengali stars who will be working in this studio are Jahar Ganguli, Dhiraj Bhattacharjee and Savitri Chatterjee. Work will begin in November when the studio is expected to be ready.

PRETTY CHEAP, THOUGH

Rome, June 9.

A civil court in Rome awarded the heirs of Caruso, the famous Italian tenor, damages amounting to $8300.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer had produced " The Great Caruso," a biographical picture on Enrico Caruso, starring Mario Lanza, about four years ago. The court held that Caruso was a greater figure than he was depicted in the picture. M.G.M. had, therefore, to pay the damages.

Italians evidently love Caruso very dearly and are anxious to deify him.

HE WASHED THEM FIRST

New York, June 25.

Well-known Broadway producer, John Golden, died at the age of 80.

Some of his popular plays include "Lightnin", "Seventh Heaven" and "Susan and God." He produced more than 100 plays in his career of 36 years. He made a name as a song-writer before taking to production of plays.

Broadway will miss this familiar old figure, known for his " clean humorous American plays."

THEY DID IT

London, June 17.

Hollywood veterans, Bebe Daniels, 54, and Ben Lyon 55, who migrated to England in 1936, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in London on June 16.

Bebe and Ben have been popular stars of the British Broadcasting Corporation for 19 years starring in the family comedies, "Life With The Lyons." The B.B.C. paid them a special tribute in a one-hour programme. Lyons' daughter, Barbara, 23, sang Bebe's old hit "Rio Rita " on the B.B.C.

Twenty-five years together is a milestone that is worthy of celebration—especially in the entertainment world with evanescent emotions.

INFILTRATION

Berlin, June 23.

A Czech film delegation will soon visit India to study the Indian film industry and to explore the Indian market for Czech motion pictures.

That means we have to prepare ourselves to see some more Communist-propaganda.

DISORGANIZED FAMILY

Hollywood, June 25.

Solidly built M.G.M. star, Mario Lanza, had two solid damages

suits brought against him in the California court.

The first suit was filed by the Kaisers, a couple, who had rented their Beverly Hills house to Mario, his wife and their four children for 28 months. They complained that their draperies were torn, a piano leg was tooth-carved and "amidst the debris, dirt, filth and desecration, only the ceilings were intact." The judge granted them damages totalling $40,361.66.

Another Hollywood landlord made a demand of $17,000 on Mario for wrecking his $200,000 mansion. The case was postponed and will probably be settled out of court.

Mario's dogs and children, who are reputed to be having monkey-glands, have landed the actor into this huge expense.

OUR PEOPLE'S ART

Poona, June 26.

The Maharashtra Tamasha Parishad held a two-day conference at Poona, attended by over 300 tamasha artistes from all over Maharashtra.

The conference was presided over by Mr. K. M. Jedhe, Maharashtra Congress leader. Fourteen resolutions were adopted by the Parishad. They wanted the State Government to extend the same kind of encouragement and patronage to tamasha troupes as was being extended to amateur dramatic societies and cultural squads in the State. They urged for the organisation of a State tamasha festival on the lines of the drama festival.

They asked the Government to nominate at least one representative of tamasha troupes on the Board constituted by it for scrutinizing scripts of tamashas and powadas. The tamasha performances should be allowed to go on till 1-30 a.m. instead of till midnight as at present. They suggested that licences should be made available for a whole district and urged that the licence fees for districts should be levied only once.

The grievances of the tamasha artistes are manifold and it is high time the Government of Bombay eliminated some of the difficulties facing them to keep alive a glorious folk art.

Tamasha, in old times, afforded fine entertainment to people in villages but today, this art is fast crumbling owing to the puritanical notions of those ruling the roost. The Congress rulers probably like the villagers to witness the Congress 'tamasha' instead of the real tamasha.

Why not use the tamasha for popularising our Five-Year Plans?

CATHOLIC CHURCH AGAIN

Panama City, June 19.

The Roman Catholic Church in Panama took a serious view of the "Miss Panama" beauty contest. The beauty contest was condemned from all pulpits as an "instigator of vice" which would "stir low passions and instincts." All girls who competed would stand the risk of being denied the sacraments of the church if they paraded their charms in bathing suits.

The "Miss Panama" contest was called off. The winner of "Miss Panama" would have competed in the "Miss Universe"

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contest. But the Panamian beauty has been nipped in the bud.

THEY AND WE

Ottawa, June 11.

The biggest and probably the best organized government-sponsored film unit in the world is the National Film Board of Canada at Ottawa. A comparatively young organization, its predecessor was the Canadian Government Motion Picture Bureau in the twenties. With the coming of sound, the Bureau could not adapt itself to new techniques. In 1938, John Grierson, popularly known as the father of the British documentary, was asked to report to the Canadian Government. This led to the National Film Board Act and the formation of a National Film Board of seven members including three government officials under the Chairmanship of the Government Film Commissioner. The first Commissioner was Mr. Grierson himself.

During the war, N.F.B., became one of the most important information services in Canada. N.F.B. produced a total of 310 films during its peak year 1945. In 1953-54, N.F.B. produced 250 films. Owing to the slump following the post-war years, the N.F.B. budget was slashed down accounting for less number of films. The N.F.B. is known for its quality films.

Their distribution system is perfect covering the most remote villages and towns. Canadian embassies all over the world lend out N.F.B. films to film societies and educational bodies, free of charge. In Paris alone, the Canadian embassy has 700 prints for distribution.

N.F.B. productions in 1952-53 won a total of 33 prizes, including an Oscar and a first award by the British Film Academy. Some of the N.F.B.'s recent films are "Atoms in the Service of Man," "Shyness," "Land of the Long Day," "The Romance of Transportation," "L'Home aux Oiseaux"—written by Roger Lemelin, a popular French-Canadian novelist—"Royal Journey," etc.

N.F.B. will soon have its own building costing 5,000,000 dollars and a modern sound studio, the headquarters being in Montreal. All the films produced by N.F.B. are made in English and French. It is estimated that over 28 million people in Canada and abroad saw these films. Thanks to enterprising John Grierson who shaped and organised the N.F.B., way back in 1938.

Our Films Division is making brave attempts to survive in the midst of inefficiency, corruption and favouritism. But the organization has still a long, long way to go before it can compete with the N.F.B. And the one man, Bhavnani, over whose training we spent lakhs and lakhs, is now removed just when his experience had begun to pay back the cost of his long training.

PRIMITIVE STUFF

Colombo, June 22.

The Finance Minister of Ceylon answering a question in Parliament said that Rs. 21,82,000 were released in exchange in connection with 13 Sinhalese films produced in India since 1948. The question of refusing exchange to India for this purpose would be considered later.

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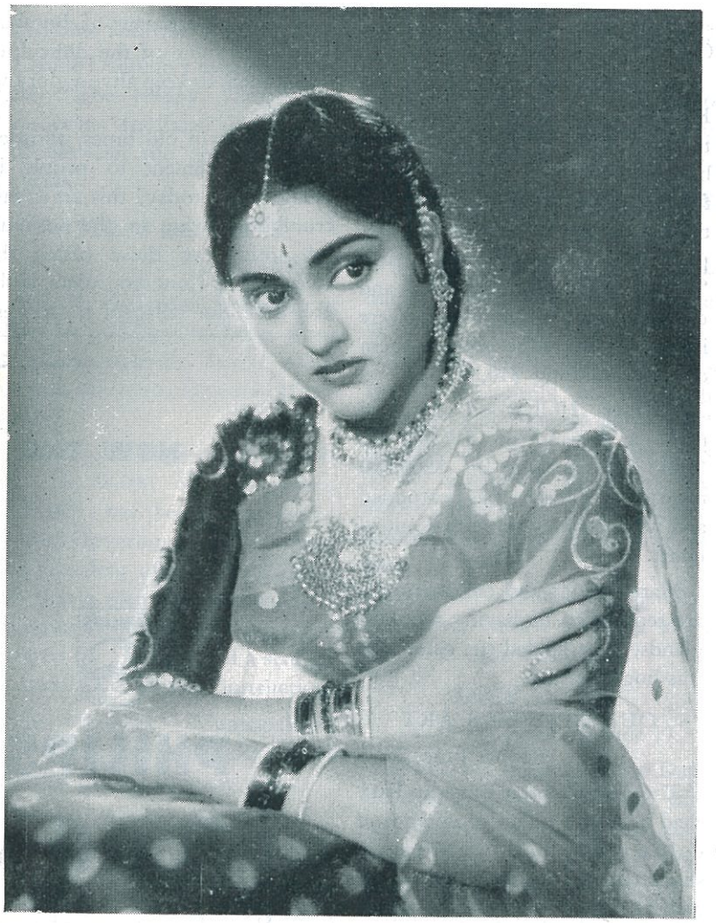

Decked for the day—or is it for the night? The daughters of Eve improved on the mother. Eve needed little to make Adam cock-eyed but modern girls need much more because modern men are blind. Vyjayantimala plans to kill in "Devdas", an emotional sigh of romance.

WHOSE FATHER'S MONEY?

New York, June 28.

Mr. Joseph McConville, chairman of Columbia Pictures, said that making pictures on European locations was getting costlier and costlier. Some American films made in Europe cost as much as two million dollars. The wages of foreign actors have risen from 10,000 dollars to 150,000 dollars.

But what about the huge profits made by American films in Europe and other parts of the world?

FRESH AIR HELPS

London, June 24.

The most popular open-air theatre in London, is the Regent's Park Open-air Theatre, founded twenty-one years ago by Robert Atkins.

The theatre has no roof, no walls, no curtains or wings but theatre-lovers crowd to see the plays staged here from June to September. The greatest handicap is the fickle-minded English weather which is as capricious as the moody female. In case of showers, there is the marquee, for the show must go on whether there be rain or sun. The grassy amphitheatre has accommodation for over 2000 and the plays in the natural setting are always more thrilling than in closed auditoriums.

Regent's Park Open-air Theatre has been steeped in traditions, because the cast is drawn from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and other well-known centres of talent.

Today's box-office draws like Greer Garson, Vivien Leigh, Anna Neagle, Deborah Kerr, Richard Todd, Fay Compton and Robert

In modern life a baby brings more tears to her mother than smiles. Motherhood is therefore fast becoming an unpopular profession. Watch Manju playing a young mother in "Bahu", a social tale.

Helpmann began their acting careers at this theatre with small walk-on parts—in between showers.

When the weather is bright and sunny, the net takings go up to £3000 in a week. But production costs are high and so are the salaries. Currently the theatre is staging "The Agamemnon" by Aeschylus and "The Romantics" by Edmund Rostand.

Many other open-air theatres have sprung up from time to time and even disappeared, but Regent's Park theatre still lives to inspire art and stage lovers.

BIKINI BEAUTY

Hollywood, June 8.

Sexy-looking Hollywood actress, Mara Corday, is probably one of the world's most photographed models.

Wearing a new bathing suit in one photograph after another, she received 227 different models as presents after posing. But sadly enough, the charming Mara is wrapped in a nurse's uniform throughout her latest film "Foxfire." Which means that her curves have been put in cold storage temporarily.

SNAPPED THE CHAIN

New York, June 18.

Robert Elliott Burns, author of "I Am A Fugitive From A Georgia Chain Gang," died after a long illness at the age of 64 in East Orange, N.J.

In 1921 Burns robbed a grocery of $5.85 and was sentenced to six-to-ten years on the chain gang. He escaped from the chain gang to Chicago where he became the editor of the Greater Chicago Magazine. In 1929, he was again captured. He served for another year and again escaped. In 1945, he was pardoned by the governor when he returned voluntarily.

Hollywood produced "I Am A Fugitive From A Chain Gang" many years ago starring Paul Muni and the picture was a great success.

BECOMING STRICTER

Bombay, July 1.

The Bombay Cinemas (Regulations) Act, 1953, is proposed to be amended with a view to provide for punishment of persons, who are not already specified, contravening rules made under Section 9—for instance, unauthorized persons selling cinema tickets outside cinema theatres.

The present Section 7 of the Act provides for punishment of the owner or person in charge of a cinematograph exhibition in certain cases.

The amending Bill published in the Bombay Government Gazette of June 21, seeks to add the following sub-sections to Section 9 of the Act :

In making rules under this section, the State Government may provide that any person failing to comply with or contravening the provisions of any rule, shall on conviction, be punished with fine which may extend to Rs. 1,000/-.

The power to make rules under this section shall be subject to the conditions of previous publication.

Again Section 10 of the Act empowers the Government to exempt, subject to such conditions and restrictions as it may impose, any cinematograph exhibition or class of cinematograph exhibitions, from any of the provisions of the Act or the Rules. There is, however, no provision for taking action for breach of the conditions and restrictions subject to which exemption has been granted, except that the exemption can be revoked. The amending Bill, therefore, also seeks to amend Sections 7 and 8 suitably to enable the Government to take requisite action in such cases.

BREAKING THE SHACKLES

New York, July 3.

On the 30th of June, film censorship in the Kansas State, U.S., came to an end. Now there are only five states—Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania—employing full-time censor boards. 41 states have no film censor boards.

Many film producers won their censorship suits in the State Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court when their pictures were banned by the State Censor Board, the most notable instance being of the picture "The Miracle." Under these circumstances, State censor boards naturally become superfluous.

That gives Hollywood producers the world's freedom to perpetuate themes on crime, sex and violence for sake of profits. Their self-appointed P.C.A., of course, does no harm to anyone. Even Howard Hughes who was originally fined $25,000 for not conforming to the rules in case of his controversial picture, "The French Line," was excused later.

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Quite a few frauds have been discovered recently in some of our insurance companies. Quite a few companies are on the brink of disaster. It is, therefore, necessary to advise our readers on the choice of a safe and economic company for their life policies.

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Berne The Oasis Of Love

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth," said Jesus Christ exactly 1955 years ago and it was left only to five million people to prove the wisdom of this beatitude. Those five million people live in the shadows of silvery mountains far away from the world and its bitter hatreds and yet right in the midst of it on an oasis of peace and love called Switzerland.

And in that little haven of peace —hardly 15944 square miles of mother earth, from which the mountains and the lakes have arrogated to themselves three-fifths of the land to make it only more picturesque and beautiful— five million souls invented a little ticker called a watch not only to measure the ceaseless tread of Father Time but also to regulate the world and make it a prisoner of punctuality. But in that tick they also gave the human race a tick of conscience for democracy, for wherever that little ticker travels with its eternal tick of conscience, it reminds the world of that great and peaceful oasis in the vast and arid desert of modern civilization with its 3101 communes and 22 cantons that make a democratic government without making a mockery of democracy.

Berne is the capital of this oasis— the last hope and dream of humanity—and a shining example of peace and brotherhood between man and man. And like Berlin, Berne has also the bear as a symbol in its coat-of-arms. And the bear takes us back to the ancient myth of Berchtold V of Zahringen, the founder of Berne, who while hunting on an altitude of 18000 feet on a ridge surrounded and embraced by the River Aar, was challenged in 1191 A.D. by a huge bear which had to be killed to become a symbol of history. Now the Bernese folks worship the bear and nurse the myth by making its statues in wood and stones.

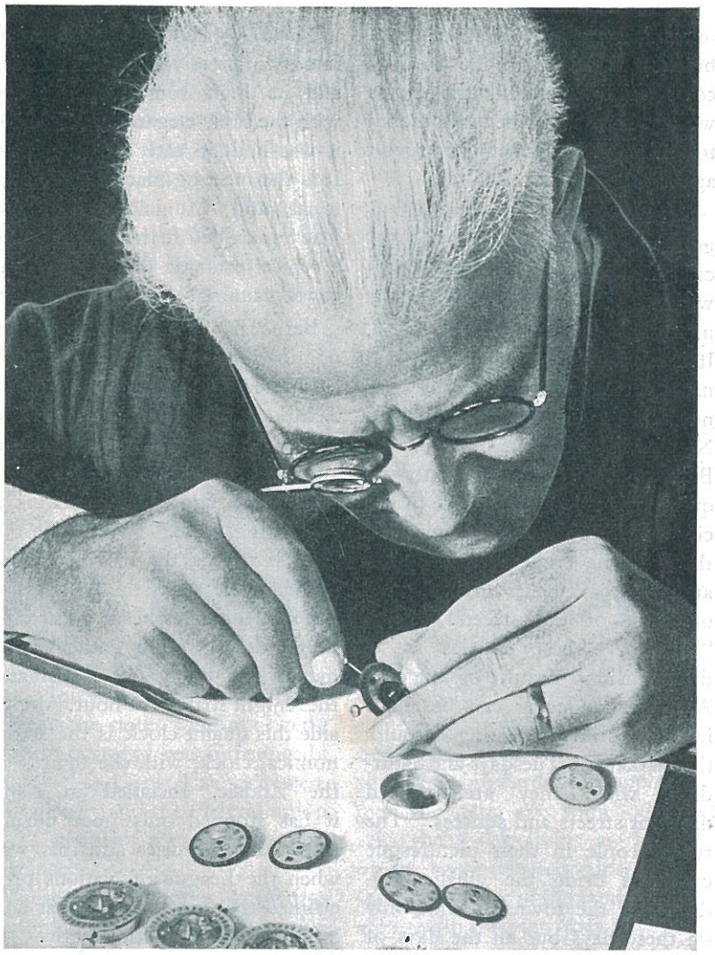
Small And Yet Great

Compared with the capitals of the world, Berne would rank at the very bottom of the list. With a population of not more than 145,740 souls in 1950, Berne is a small city even by Swiss standards. The three other Swiss cities, Zurich, Geneva and Basle claim larger populations. Zurich leads the rest with 396,500. But the entire Swiss population scattered over 15,944 square miles of its territory is not more than 5 million, which is less than half of the population of Greater London.

Switzerland, no doubt may be the land for travellers, holiday-makers and mountaineers to spend vacations, but with the Alps and the Jura taking up over three-fifths of the land, and the lakes Maggiore, Lugano, Lucerne, Geneva, Zurich, etc. claiming more land, there is little land left for the Swiss to live. The average density of population is quite high with 300 persons to the square mile.

This little country nestling amidst Germany, Austria, Italy and France, with no coast at all, enjoys an importance in the world that even the big Powers ought to envy. For centuries it has been a zealous votary of Neutrality, which has been made a fourth cornerstone along with Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. Switzerland is not only the land which has a white cross on red background as its emblem, but also the land of the Red Cross. One of its illustrious sons, Henri Dunnant, founded the international movement, with its headquarters at Geneva. Even though Switzerland is not yet a member of the U.N., it has become the headquarters of a number of U.N. organizations and international bodies like the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, International Bureau of Education, Universal Postal Union, International Tele-communication Union, and the International Union for the Protection of Intellectual Property. Most of these organizations have their central headquarters at Geneva, as if in homage to the fact that Geneva was the headquarters of the League of Nations from 1919 to 1946.

In yet another respect too, Switzerland is important. As a country with democracy as a living faith zealously guarded by its people, it has been looked up to with reverence and respect by philosophers, politicians and professors of politics. Such true democracy is still being maintained that as in the days of the Greek city states, voting in certain parts of Switzerland is still being done in the open air with the raising of hands and not by ballot. A genuine republic for centuries, it has a pyramidal democratic state structure applauded by all lovers of liberty and equality. Yet, strangely enough, the Swiss deny the vote to half of their population— their women. Even though it apparently looks a heinous crime to deny women the votes in a country where there is multi-racial, multi-lingual amity born



With that little ticking machine, the good and industrious Swiss not only measured time but also gave the world a conscience for punctuality. Here is an expert at his job.

out of democratic practices and bracket them with the healthy cows of Switzerland, the Swiss women have so far never bothered to raise the banner of revolt against the men.

All travellers who are tired of getting lost or being dazed in huge cities like London, Paris and Berlin would really appreciate the intimate, naive atmosphere of Berne. It is a quaint town with beautiful natural surroundings, set as it is not far from the Lakes of Biel and Neuchatel and the glaciers of Bernese Alps. One takes to the quiet, unhurried way of life in the city and likes to loiter and wander through the endless arcades, the arched in pavements on both sides of most of the streets. Called "Lauben," these arcades are a distinguishing feature of the city. Aimless wandering can be made into a pastime by going through the markets on Tuesdays and Saturdays, when they are held in different streets and squares. The rural people in their picturesque costumes bring the village products for the townsfolk not only on these days but all the days of the week. The butter, cheese and meat markets near the Cathedral, and the market opposite the Bundeshaus, the Parliament Building, cannot be easily resisted by anybody whatever may be the state of the purse.

Few Landmarks

Berne does take pride in its landmarks even though they are few. The towering Cathedral, which was begun in 1421 and completed in 1893, is a fine example of pure Gothic style and contains some of the loveliest stained glass windows and sculptures in Europe. In contrast to this is the Church of the Holy Ghost, near the Railway Station, built in pure Baroque style. Since the majority of the Swiss population belong to the Protestant faith, most of the churches are dedicated to it. Among these, the two 14th century churches, the Nydegg and the Prediger Churches, unfailingly attract visitors.

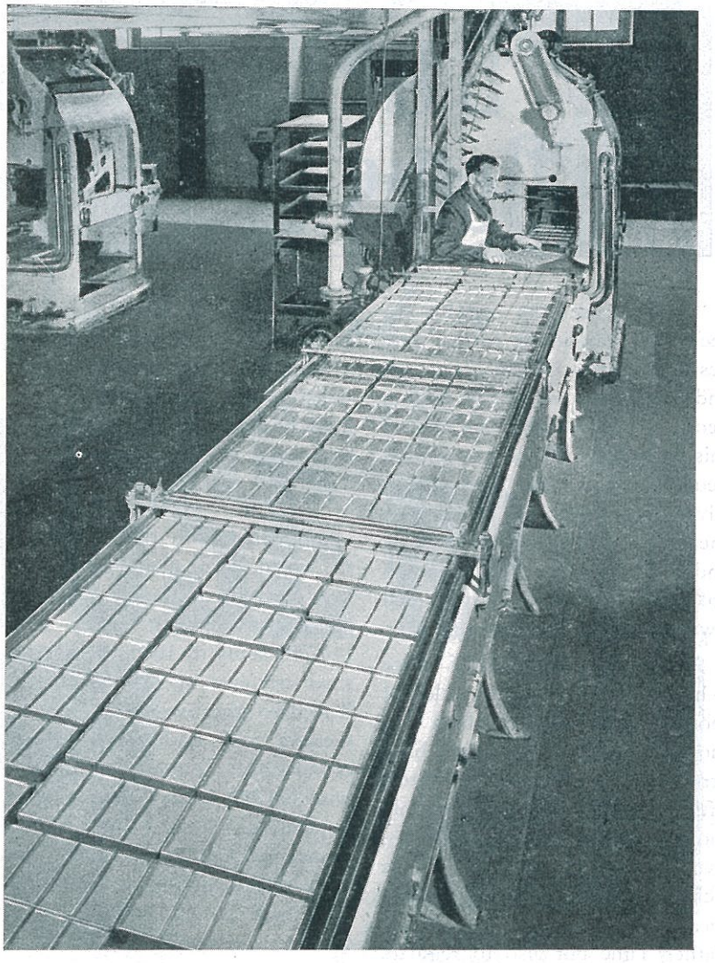
The Town Hall with its imposing facade, impressively styled interior and its high roof, stands today with the same elegance with which it was built in early 15th century. It is the meeting place of the Cantonal and Municipal Councils. The Square before the Town Hall is a typical example of the medieval town planning.

Berne has quite a few towers dominating the skyline. The most celebrated is the Clock Tower—Zeitglockenturn—which was the main tower of the city at one time and also served as the main gateway. The figure-play clock is a fascinating piece. Every time the hour is struck, the rooster crows, Father Time turns the hour-glass, the lion turns his head, a circle of bears moves round Father Time merrily, the jester rings the bell and the Knight strikes the hour. Alongside this quaint clock is the astronomical clock, with the figures of the Zodaic. Installed in 1530, it has stopped only once during these four centuries and that was when the League of Nations proclaimed that it would end war and establish peace permanently.

In the Western part of the city are two towers that none can miss. One of them is the Prison Tower and the other is the Dutch Tower. The latter was once nothing more than the smoking room of military officers who returned after fighting in the Dutch army. Incidentally, in the 17th and 18th centuries, smoking was banned in the Bernese Canton and had to be indulged as secretly and successfully as illicit liquor is drunk in the Prohibition provinces of India.

The one-time boys' orphanage on the Waisenhousplatz which is now the Police Headquarters, the Citizen's Hospital and Corn Exchange, the Chapter House in the Cathedral square, and the residential mansions of the Wattenwyls, Erlachs and Diesbachs are a few other landmarks.

The fountains of Berne are as famous as the fountains of Rome. One is dedicated to Moses; another is dedicated to Samson; the third to Justice; the fourth to Anna Seiler, who bequeathed all her property to the founding of an hospital; the fifth to a bagpiper; the sixth to a marksman; the seventh to a messenger; and there are several more.



And the Swiss make chocolates for the world believing in a sweet taste bringing more saliva for love than bitter pills bringing more hatred for politics. Look at this automatic chocolate making machine.

Among the statues and monuments, the World Postal Union Monument in the Lesser Ramparts and the World Telegraph Union Monument on the Helvetiaplatz are the most impressive.

Berne has some rare museums the like of which cannot be found anywhere else like the Gutenberg Museum, in memory of the Father of Printing, the Swiss Rifle Museum, the Postal Museum and the Alpine Museum. The art galleries and the libraries in the city have some fine collections.

While the outdoor-minded can spend endless hours in the Rose Garden, from where one can have an excellent view of the city, the English Garden by the side of the River Aar, and the Dahlhozli, where the Zoo is situated, the epicures can whet their appetites in some of the 40 hotels and restaurants of quality in the city. Bernese wine, known as "Schafiser," the "Bernerplatte" made up of sour cabbage and green beans, and Bernese gingerbread are the city's specialities without forgetting a rich variety of cheese.

But the importance of Berne is that while the two clocks in its Tower are ticking, millions of Swiss watches, timepieces and clocks all over the world are also kept ticking. For, Berne is the capital of the country that is synonymous with watch-making. Over

Geneva, the town where they discuss peace and air their conscience. The four war-mongers of the world recently met there for the umpteenth time to cheat the world. The beauty of the Mont Blanc Bridge and Rousseau Island must be lost on them.

60,000 people are engaged in watch-making and its allied trade of jewellery. Watches, jewellery, precision instruments and electrical goods account for a good portion of Swiss exports. Swiss textiles are also equally famous.

What keep the Swiss watches ticking the world over—be they Gublin, West End, Rolex, Cyma or Longines—are the ticking hearts of the Swiss, a thrifty and industrious people. They take immense pride in their democratic institutions. They gloat over their principles of neutrality and non-interference. They consider themselves Europeans with a difference because they have had no dynastic monarchy ruling over them for centuries and consequently no wars with neighbours with expansionist motives, and no colonial wars and possessions. The Swiss prefer to be the meek and thus inherit the earth through hard work, free trade and democratic living.

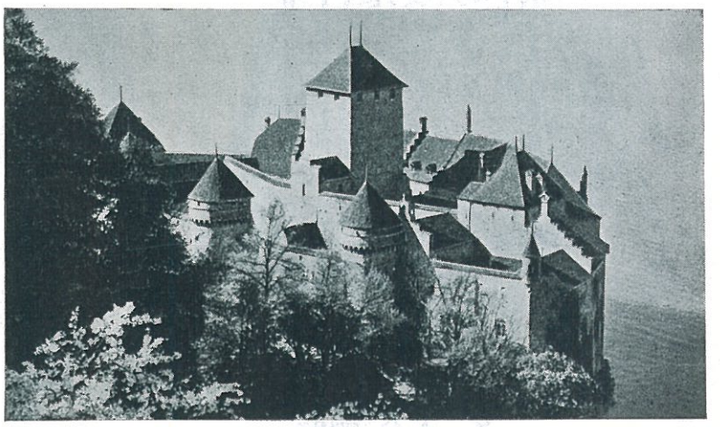
Return To Liberty

A brief glance at their eventless history would be helpful in finding an explanation for their enviable state in this world of today torn in two camps. The real history of Switzerland starts with 1291, when the three communities of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden formed an alliance to preserve their independence against the Habsburgs. This alliance of "Everlasting League" was further renewed in 1315. Slowly neighbouring communities joined and between 14th and 17th centuries it came to be known as the League of Thirteen Members including Lucerne, Zurich, Berne, Basle, Soleure, etc. Even though, now and then, neighbouring rulers tried to grab the territory of the League, it maintained its solidarity and sovereignty. Only once in the 16th century, the Confederates used arms to conquer the Duchy of Milan and incorporate it in the League. But the Swiss were defeated. With that they "retreated from European history of wars and conquests."

The great Napoleon, who set about changing the map of Europe, did not spare Switzerland. He even renamed it as the "Helvetic Republic." The Confederation broke up for a while, but re-formed itself when the fate of Napoleon was sealed. In 1948, the Federal State superceded the old Confederation. Internal customs barriers between the states were removed ; uniform currency was introduced ; the army and postal service were centralised ; and the Federal union of 22 member states came into existence.

These member states, known as Cantons, are not administrative districts but real states, like the states of the United States of America. And, these states are based on the 3101 free communes. The Swiss commune is defined as "the primitive cell, representing a group of men having a common birthplace, who know each other well and are bound together by direct, material ties of interest and kinship ; men who by attending to matters of local government, learn the meaning of citizenship." Several such communes form a Canton, and 22 such Cantons form Switzerland. Reciprocal understanding of one another and mutual service bind the communes and the cantons together. They definitely know what is democracy even though they never shout about it as the U.S.A. or U.K. do.

The greatness and the intrinsic worth of the Swiss cannot be easily seen or quickly understood by the thousands of tourists who indulge in a hurried tour of Switzerland. These tourists may go to the highest railway station in the world at Jungfraujoch at an altitude of 11203 feet above sea level, travel by overhead cable-cabins, gambol on the shores of the various lakes, and ski in the snows. But they cannot understand the glorious Swiss way of life unless they live in the little-known Cantons for some months at least. Then they can watch democracy at work, spreading outwards like ripples all over the state. As somebody has said, the Swiss, living as they do on the snow-covered Alps, have a God's eye-view of humanity. And, along with the view they have also acquired some qualities, which if not god-like are at least far different from those of the Germans, the French, the Italians and the Austrians, who all surround them. Their neighbours have shed the blood of their own countrymen, their neighbours and of their colonial peoples. But the Swiss have not perpetrated the greatest crime against humanity during the past several centuries. May their way of life spread all over the world.



The Castle of Chillon near Montreux on Lake Geneva.

A VOILE WARDROBE

by
Uma Sondhi

FOR Rs. 30 & UNDER

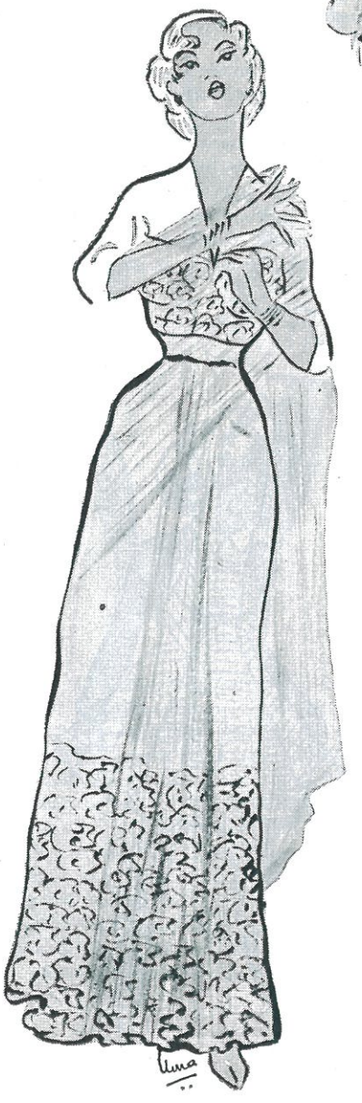
On the upper left corner is a lovely cool crisp organdie sari in pastel lime green. A large border of 10" in flowered voile is stitched on only one edge of the sari at the bottom. This border acts as a skirt and continues along the entire lower end of the area draped across the front and terminates into the palloo. The print itself is in lilac, primrose yellow and green, with a hint of white and black. A simple deep V-necked choli with ¾ long sleeves is made in matching voile. Cost? Only Rs. 24|- for 6 yds. Organdie @ Rs. 4|- per yd. and Rs. 4|8|- for 3 yds. of voile @ Rs. 1|8|- per yd.

In the centre a model displays the effective use of a frilled border. The actual sari is in the palest blue mulmul. A 6" frill in Khatau voile is stitched along the edges of the sari and is repeated on the skirt after leaving 10" of material. The sleeveless choli is in matching blue mulmul and if you like you can give it a frilled neckline to match the sari. The print on the frill is of tiny blue forget-me-nots touched with white and black, with black dots all over the background. This fresh looking ensemble costs Rs. 12|- for 6 yds. mulmul @ Rs. 2|- per yd. and Rs. 8|12|- for Khatau voile- 3½ yds. @ Rs. 2|8|- per yd.

A lovely print of large pastel shaded flowers in lilac and pale yellow with a hint of leaf green will make this light-looking kamiz. This voile kamiz displays a very low square neck at the back with buttons down the centre and magyar sleeves. The neckline in front is a very shallow square. To make it last longer and fall better put a chemise-shaped cambric lining or otherwise wear a flared slip. To get the billowy effect in the skirt, cut the kamiz in the princess line style. The whole kamiz will cost Rs. 9|- for 3 yds. voile @ Rs. 3|- per yd. and Rs. 4|8|- for Cambric (3 yds.) @ Rs. 1|8|- per yd.

On the extreme upper right is another interesting way to use sprigged voile. The choli in pastel pink and green print on white has a high collar with a plunging narrow V and full sleeves of ¾ length caught tightly in fitting cuffs. The patli of the sari is in the same printed voile for added effect. This ensemble costs Rs. 12|- for 6 yds. white voile and Rs. 7|- for 4 yds. printed voile @ Rs. 1|12|- per yd.

The model on the left displays an interesting way of rejuvenating a self-coloured silk suit. Cut out large flowers, single or in bunches from some flowered voile and applique them on one corner of the kamiz skirt. Buy a net dopatta, matching the shade of the shalwar kamiz suit and applique the same voile flowers all over it. The shade of the flowers should contrast pleasantly with the shade of the suit. This gives you an entirely new ensemble for only Rs. 3|8|- for 2 yds. voile (you should get enough flowers out of that much) @ Rs. 1|12|- per yd. and Rs. 9|- for 2½ yds. net @ Rs. 3|8|- per yd.



The two models on the right look smart and cool in two new combinations of voile. The first one wears a mulmul sari in palest pink. The bottom half of her choli bodice and the 12" skirt are in a lightly printed voile with pink dominating the pale green and yellow flowers. The rest of the deep V-necked choli and elbow length sleeves are in pink mulmul to match the sari. This costs Rs. 12|- for 6 yds. pink voile and Rs. 2|10|- for 1½ yds. printed voile.

The second model wears a sari which can be worn in two ways. It consists of 3 yards of pale mauve voile joined to 3 yds. of printed mauve voile. The plain voile half can be worn as the skirt with the printed half as a long palloo or vice versa. The print is mainly white with touches of black & green on a mauve ground. It will cost Rs. 12|- for 6 yds. mauve & printed voile @ Rs. 2|- per yd.

LITTLE DEVILS IN DISGUISE

UMA SONDHI

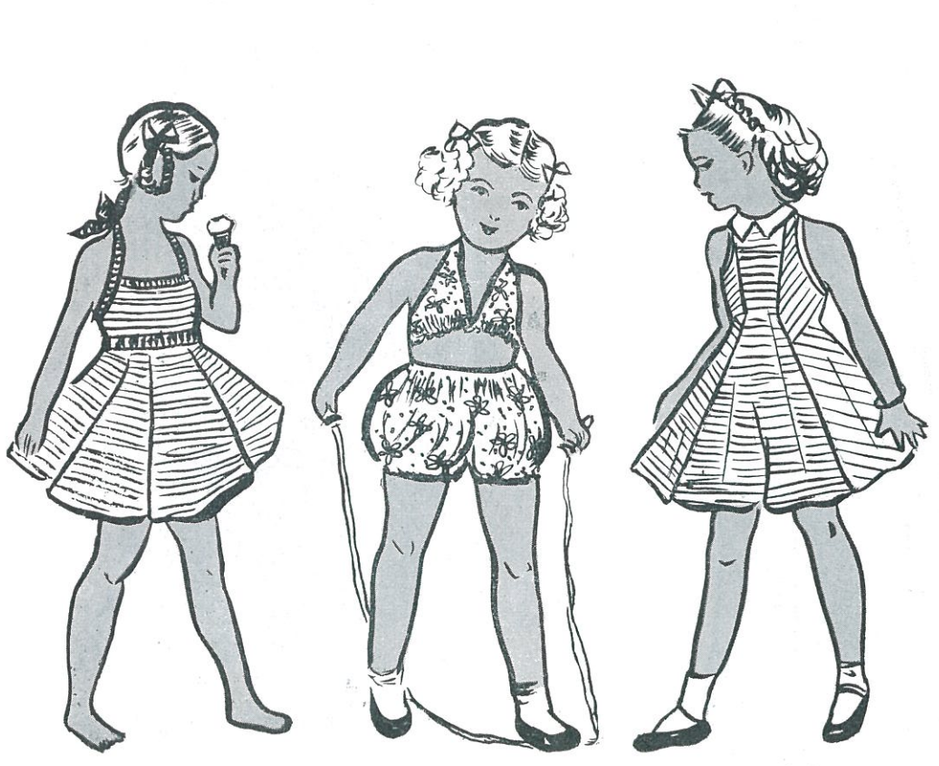
They look like little angels but looks are deceiving. Anyway, it is best for the mother's peace of mind to dress her children as sweetly as possible. Who knows, they may even react accordingly. Actually the first and foremost factor a mother must consider is the child's comfort. These atomic bundles of energy need all the freedom they can get for their amazing activities. Otherwise there shall be outright rebellion. Here are a few ideas essentially for warm weather comfort, that some harassed mamas may do well to consider.

Ruling the roost is the tiniest of tots. The tinier they come the simpler their clothing, so this one wears, just a roomy pair of rompers tied at the shoulders. Elastic prevents the leg-holes from sagging. Make this scanty thing in a pastel-shaded lightly printed cotton.

This other couple here displays a convenient combination. They are a very simple pair of shorts for playtime with simple shoulder straps. When it is time to dress up, it is easy to don a little frock with magyar sleeves round neck and buttons down the front. A little smocking on either side acts as decoration and adds a flair to the frock.

For more festive occasions, this cutest frock of them all attracts attention. Stiff crisp organdy makes a full fairy skirt and wispy fly-away raglan sleeves. The bodice and a little top-skirt are made in patterned taffeta. The effect is of a pinafore but the top taffeta bit is detachable only round the waist. This means that the frock may be worn as shown, or with only a taffeta bodice and no top-skirt. Not to be outdone, the young lad escorting the miss looks very dandy in his patterned taffeta romper-suit. It is sleeveless and high-necked with buttons down the centre.

The three little girls below take it easy in summer wear. Starting from the left, the little lady looks comfortable in her simple striped pique frock. Her halter straps fasten into a bow at the back of her neck, leaving her shoulders, arms, and half her back bare. The little miss with the skipping rope wears another halter-necked style. Her brief halter-necked 'choli' with its deep V reaching the elastic waistline goes well with her full bloomers, likewise caught at the legs with elastic. A gaily printed cotton lends itself best to this style. The third girl displays yet another version of the halter-neck. Her striped cotton frock is cut on the princess style. The lines are interestingly arranged to fall horizontally in the centre panel and diagonally on either side. A crisp white collar and white bands along the sleeves and back give the cotton dress a lasting freshness.



These few designs are intended for a slightly higher age-group. Say about 9 to 13 years old. In the centre are a couple of kids in a smart convertible dress. The bodice of ruched cotton has a deep square neck both back and front, with stiff organdy fly-away sleeves. For playtime the little girl wears a pair of white drill shorts with the bodice but for party time she dons a flowing three-tiered organdy skirt. Pale lilac cotton for the bodice and white organdy for the sleeves and skirt will provide a delicate combination.

Up above left is another couple in a smart sun-frock. For formality there is a little pleated full-sleeved, waist-length jacket fastened at the high neck with a few buttons. When the jacket comes off it reveals a smart gaily printed, full skirted frock with a cuffed neck-line, fastened round the neck with slim straps. These can be unfastened and knotted into a bow between the cuffs of the bodice.

Above right shows two more girls happily at play in their smart play-suits. A strapless bodice is held up by elastic edging round the top. It supports a rather low waistline, from where the gathers of a rather full pair of bloomers flare out and are caught again at the legs with more elastic. A tiny bolero is worn over the top when the sun becomes too strong. Printed tobralco is the best choice for this design.

For more formal occasions the young ladies on either side display two versions of the same idea, namely the dropped waistline. On the left the frock features a deep boat neckline trimmed with an enormous frill that acts as the sleeves. The frill is repeated just above the hips where the waist flares into a skirt, the edge of which is likewise trimmed with a frill. The design on the right is almost the same except that it features a deep V neck and hip line. These designs are flattering to growing children who are all legs and no torso. The elongated waistline lengthens the body and detracts attention from gawky legs. Calf length socks help to produce the right effect. Made in cool patterned cottons, these make excellent dresses for semi-formal outings.

VYJAYANTIMALA HAS NEVER DANCED BEFORE AS SHE DANCES IN "KISMET KA KHEL"

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Sahu Films Ltd.

KISMET KA KHEL

Produced & Directed by:

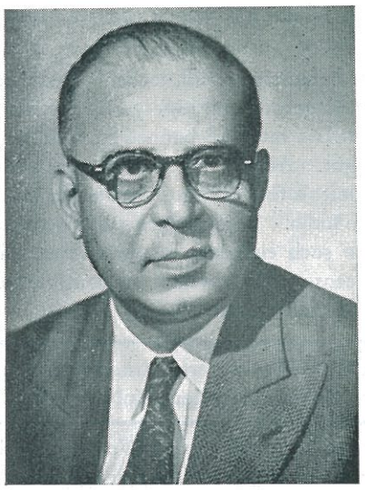
KISHORE SAHU

Music:

SHANKER - JAIKISHEN

Cinematography	Art Direction	Editing	Dialogue	Lyrics
K. H. KAPADIA	V. JADAVRAO	K. B. SHUKLA	RAMESH GUPTA	SHAILENDRA & HASRAT

SAHU FILMS LTD., CHEMBUR, BOMBAY.



REVIEWED IN HOLLYWOOD

by
Our Special Correspondent

"This is not a malicious tirade against all pictures coming from Hollywood. This is a deliberate campaign only against bad and dangerous pictures—pictures which contain lust, crime, violence and other anti-social elements. Good pictures from Hollywood or from any other country are always welcome. Like all good things they sell themselves. But bad and dangerous pictures have to be pointed out to save our people from becoming degenerate and demoralised members of society. Hollywood producers have turned America into a big colony of violent and sadistic criminals. This section is therefore intended to prevent that tragedy in our peace-loving, non-violent country." Baburao Patel.

"By and large the pervasive influence of films is very great. It is not only pervasive but also widespread. Its influence may not be as deep as those of books, yet it is a strong influence in moulding the lives of people. I am clear in my mind that crime and horror stories should be suppressed ruthlessly. Such stories were a hundred per cent bad, causing sadistic crimes. Such films encouraged children to murder for the sake of pleasure. No government or society should allow such things to flourish. Government ought to take ruthless action to prevent something turning into an instrument of evil." Prime Minister Nehru at the Film Seminar on February 27, 1955.

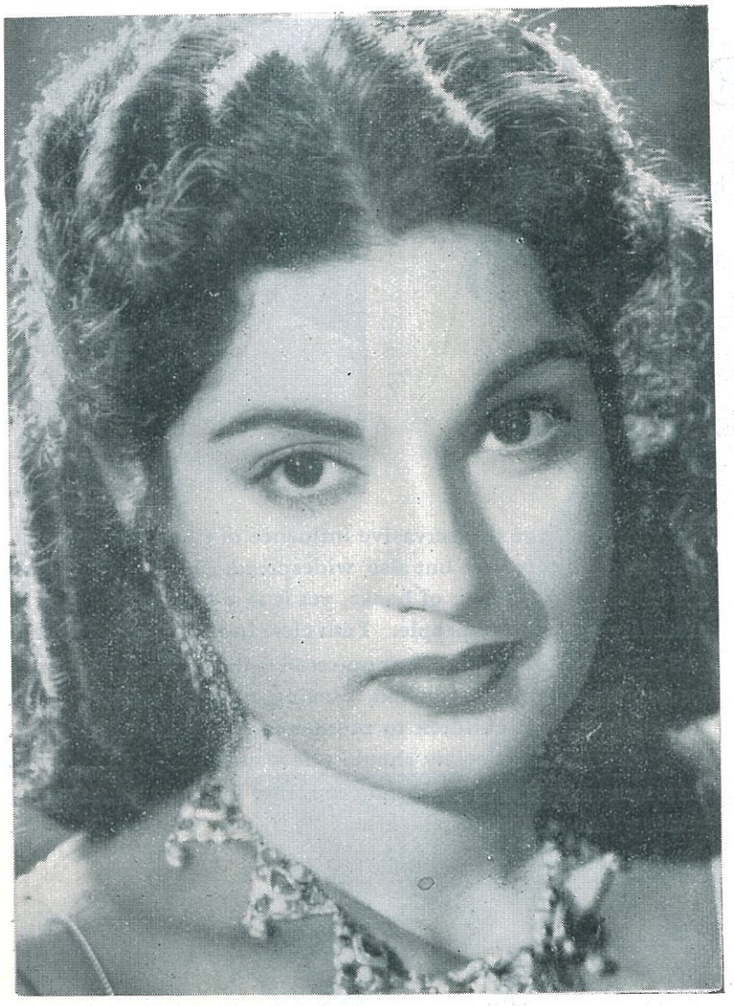
BLACKBOARD JUNGLE (MGM)
Cast : Glenn Ford, Anne Francis, Louis Calhern

"Blackboard Jungle" is an extremely lurid, sensational and shocking picture purporting to portray the ugly, horrifying degree of juvenile delinquency prevalent in some American schools. It is a picture loaded with revolting and shocking incidents, blood-curdling brutality, chilling crime, sickening hoodlumism, unsavoury sex situations and general sensationalism. It portrays schoolboys who are thoroughly soaked in crime and violence, who arrogantly defy their teachers, beat them up mercilessly in dark alleys, pounce upon them with open knives inside classrooms, try to ruin their personal lives, who commit various crimes and acts of delinquency and who do not even hesitate to assault their female teachers and attempt rape. It also portrays teachers who prefer to be either helpless or cynical in the face of their students' criminal arrogance or who, if they do try to resist it, do not resist the temptation of going down a saloon and getting drunk after a weary day at school, and lonesome sexy female teachers who make no secret of their sex-starvation and invite their male colleagues to satisfy their sexual thirst.

That all these things can happen in American schools and with American schoolboys and teachers, can be easily believed because America is already more a big crime colony than a normal nation and we do not need any more Hollywood pictures to tell us this. "Blackboard Jungle", however, is not merely a lurid, shocking piece of information—though even that would be bad enough for the medium of entertainment—but it is a grim essay on sordidness and sensationalism, on juvenile crime and hoodlumism, on violence and brutality, on American civilization's filth and dirt. And that makes it an obnoxious picture, a highly objectionable piece of screen entertainment, a picture which is quite likely to teach crime and arrogance to the youth and produce deleterious results wherever it is shown.

Our censors may note that this picture has already become an object of violent controversy in America where many educationists and national groups have strongly deplored the picture's sordid, shocking and sensational character. Bosley Crowther, the film critic of "New York Times", doubted the picture's facts, expressed apprehension as to its likely effect on the public and said : "Certainly juvenile delinquency is a problem today, but it will not help to have it misrepresented and sensationalized." And unless our censors consider it very necessary that Indian students should witness on the screen the activities of some American students who attack their teachers inside classrooms with open knives and who try to rape their female teachers and who consider the adoption of a criminal career a glorious acquisition, this picture must be banned completely, entirely and ruthlessly.

The story deals with Glenn Ford, a young Navy veteran, who takes up his first teaching job in a big-city vocational trade school located in a slum district. On his first day at school Ford discovers that the students are rude, impudent and arrogant, proud of their physical toughness and devotedly defiant of authority. Ford's cynical colleague, Louis Calhern, warns him never to turn his back on the class. Ford tries to use humour on the students but without results. He then tries to invoke discipline but the students led by Vic Morrow, a despicable hoodlum, and Sidney Poitier, a tough negro, make it menacingly clear that they have never heard the word and that if anybody tried to force it into their vocabulary they could beat him up to forget his own vocabulary. Thus on his very first day at school Ford



When they aim that way they never let a man escape. Munnawar Sultana will be seen on the screen after a long time in "Jallad", a romantic thriller. And let us pray for the hero.

learns a good deal about the situation at the school, but he learns more when on the same day a T-shirted boy assaults and tries to rape Margaret Hayes, a sexy teacher, and Ford intervenes to rescue her and manages to overpower the hoodlum after a fierce, violent duel. This enrages the student-hoodlums more and they give a brutal beating to Ford and another new teacher, in a dark alley as the pedagogues emerge from a saloon soaked with drink. Later on, Margaret tries to repay Ford for rescuing her by admitting to him that she is lonely and sex-starved and by inviting him to have an affair with her, knowing that he is married. Ford ignores her invitation but one of the students by writing notes and making phone calls about Ford having an affair with "another woman" manages to upset Ford's pregnant wife, Anne Francis, so much that she gives birth prematurely. Too angry and disgusted Ford now decides to leave the school but Anne persuades him to continue. With great patience Ford subsequently manages to gain the interest and co-operation of some of the class. Poitier happens to be one of the converts to some decency. The climax comes when one day Morrow determinedly defies Ford in the class and Ford pointedly accuses him of leading the gang attack on him and writing notes to his wife. At this Morrow whips out a knife and menacingly advances towards Ford. Ford appeals to the students to help him in disarming Morrow and the students led by Poitier turn against Morrow and help Ford to subdue the hoodlum after a fight and then escort him to the principal.

Final Verdict : This is an extremely sordid, sickening picture of juvenile delinquency and it is dangerous and highly objectionable as screen entertainment. This picture must be banned in India entirely and without a second thought. Already, as a result of American crime pictures, we have had quite a few college boys either beating or killing their professors in India. This picture will provide added zest and encouragement to such elements in our educational institutions. And if it does, the censors alone will be responsible for the new harvest of crime that we shall collect.

THE MAN FROM BITTER RIDGE (Universal-International)
Cast : Lex Barker, Mara Corday, Stephen McNally

This picture is a thoroughly disgusting violent Western which deals with the usual thugs, robbers, sheriffs and undercover agents who infest the Westerns and merely act as instruments for spraying the screen with blood and bullets. This essay on violence, however, happens to have an extra edge of unpleasantness for it contains more violence than is usually seen in half-a-dozen Westerns put together. Violence is rarely commendable in life or on the screen and is never pleasant, but here all the mass of pointless and unnecessary violence is presented as source of pleasure, thrills and entertainment. We trust our censors to realize that killing for pleasure and showing violence and bloodshed for entertainment is a vicious and obnoxious practice. "Man From Bitter Ridge", therefore, richly deserves to be banned.

The story has Lex Barker, an undercover agent of a stagecoach company, heading for Tomahawk to track the culprits behind a series of stage holdups. Barker encounters one of the bandits who swaps horses with him at gun point and shortly after a posse captures Barker and decides to hang him. But Barker is saved in time by the arrival of the sheriff who is satisfied by the evidence of his innocence. Now John Dehner, a crooked laywer, and Myron Healey and Warren Stevens, the three brothers who actually headed the bandits' gang, decide to make him look responsible for the holdups and link him with Stephen McNally, the head of a group of sheepmen who were already suspected by the townspeople to be behind the holdups. By falling in love with Mara Corday, a murdered sheep rancher's daughter, Barker wins the rivalry of McNally who also happens to love Mara. In order to prove that Dehner and his brothers were the real criminals, however, McNally joins forces with Barker and they capture Ray Teal, one of the bandits, and force him to give information about the Dehner gang. Stevens makes a bid to prevent Teal from giving out the information but he only succeeds in being killed in gun battle. As Barker and McNally take Teal to the sheepmen's settlement, they are raided by the gang who kill many sheep with dynamite but are repulsed before they can get Teal. In the end Barker and sheepmen bring Teal to Tomahawk to give evidence before the sheriff, but the bandits shoot Teal dead to shut his mouth resulting in a final, fierce gun battle in which the bandits are wiped out and after which Barker takes Mara to a local store to buy her a fashionable dress.

Final Verdict : This is a disgusting mass of extreme and pointless violence and as such deserves to be banned straightway.

THE BIG TIP OFF (Allied Artists)
Cast : Richard Conte, Constance Smith, Bruce Bennett

"The Big Tip Off" is an ugly portrait of crime, crookedness, fraud and violence. Hollywood must pick up one or the other of numerous

American rackets to spread them all over the world. The racket in this picture consists of raising funds for bogus charities or to pinch the funds even if raised for genuine charities. The greedy crook who is the head of one such crooked professional fund-raising organisation, is quite a hoodlum who does not mind exploiting or implicating innocent people or even strangling females in order to achieve his nefarious ends. In the midst of this story of crime and crookedness are thrown a nun and a priest, and some religiousness, and that looks all the more disgusting. This is a far from wholesome picture and deserves to be banned.

Richard Conte, a small-time columnist in a Los Angeles newspaper, has his path crossed once again by his old friend Bruce Bennett as Bennett returns to the city after many years. Bennett is accompanied by Constance Smith, supposed to be his secretary in a professional fund-raising organisation for different charities. The organisation is, of course, crooked but Conte does not suspect it and introducing Bennett to Cathy Downs, a nun, and Sam Flint, a Catholic priest, asks him to organise a bazaar to raise funds for St. Ann's Parish. Bennett does so to gain Conte's confidence and the drive succeeds. Meanwhile, with a view to exploiting Conte for a huge fund drive, Bennett follows a patient scheme, keeps planting anonymous phone calls to Conte purporting to give him tips on gang killings. When Conte is urged by the police to reveal his source of information, he refuses to do so, lands with a 30-day sentence for contempt of court and hits the headlines. When Conte is released, Bennett, having waited for the moment, persuades Conte to act as the master of ceremonies at an elaborate telethon to raise funds for a hospital. The telecast comes off successfully but just after it is over Bennett decides to frame Conte for stealing the funds. Since by this time Constance has fallen in love with Conte and is ready to spill the beans, Bennett decides to deal with her first. He chokes her throat and believing her to be dead throws her into the sea. But luck fails to side with Bennett after this and he is trapped into confessing his crooked schemes. In the usual violent end, Bennett and Conte engage in a fierce fight in which Bennett is killed, and Conte is left free to go to Constance who had escaped death and landed in hospital.

Final Verdict: Being a picture of crime, fraud and crookedness, this is objectionable entertainment and deserves to be banned.

HELL'S ISLAND (Paramount)
Cast: John Payne, Mary Murphy, Francis L. Sullivan

Hell is a favourite word with Hollywood because it represents evil and Hollywood producers are that subterranean institution's salesmen on earth. "See Hollywood pictures and ensure your journey to Hell" seems to be the trade slogan of Hollywood producers. Well, "Hell's Island" is another sample of Hell-selling salesmanship. And it contains all the devilish items and ingredients. There are murders, doublecrossings and sabotage acts ; there is greed, violence and smuggling ; and there is crime, deceit and intrigue. There is a foul woman who plans her husband's murder in order to collect his life insurance and seize a gem. There is a paralytic who is greedy and ruthless. There are gunmen and other crooked characters and other vicious and sordid events. All this spells obnoxious entertainment and our censors should not hestitate in banning this picture outright.

The story has Francis L. Sullivan, a ruthless paralytic, telling John Payne, an employee at a Las Vegas gambling club, the story of a fabulous ruby which was being smuggled out of the Caribbean port of Puerto Rosario to Sullivan by a flier, Paul Picerni, on a chartered plane but which disappeared on the way as the plane crashed due to sabotage. Payne further learns that another flier got killed in the crash as Picerni did not fly it as per plan and that Picerni has been put in jail on a charge of sabotage. Sullivan offers $ 5,000 to Payne to go to Puerto Rosario and discover the facts about the missing ruby. Since Payne had once been engaged to Mary Murphy who jilted him to marry Picerni, Payne accepts the assignment hoping to get facts out of Mary. Payne reaches Mary but she pleads ignorance about the gem. Payne then tries to question a mechanic who had worked on the sabotaged plane but the mechanic is murdered before he can give any answers. As Payne proceeds with the investigation, more murders are committed and more intrigues and doublecrosses discovered till finally Payne discovers that Mary is the real culprit who was responsible for several murders and who had engineered the sabotage of the plane in order to kill her husband, collect his huge life insurance and gain possession of the ruby. In the end Mary is trapped by Payne into confessing all her crimes within the hearing of the hidden police and is then taken away to jail.

Final Verdict: This is a sordid, unpleasant story of greed, intrigues and murders with practically everything in it unsavoury and distasteful. As such it is a corrupting picture and must be banned outright.

5 AGAINST THE HOUSE (Columbia)
Cast: Guy Madison, Kim Novak, Brian Keith

So far we thought that books, examinations, sports, various collegiate contests were about the only things which could constitute

a challenge to students. But now comes Hollywood with a new discovery, or rather invention, that even a robbery can be looked upon as a challenge by students. This ingenious and of course, dirty and deplorable idea is purveyed in "5 Against The House" in which a bunch of college students consider the claim of a gambling house to be holdup proof as an insult to their intelligence and talents and decide to stage a holdup in the establishment after careful and elaborate planning and prove the gambling house's claim wrong and themselves efficient and versatile. They approach the robbery with the intention of returning the loot but when the scheme is executed successfully, one of the students forgets that the robbery was done only for academic reasons and whipping out a gun turns the experiment into real business determined to decamp with the loot. He is, of course, subdued in the end and all the academic robbers return to their college after the criminal experiment, without any authority laying even a small finger on them. This is Hollywood's contribution to the education and enlightenment of our students whom it must be now expecting to meet similar "challenges" in life and stage experimental and academic, but nevertheless criminal, holdups and robberies. We hope our censors have sense and intelligence enough to see an extremely disgusting, deplorable and reprehensible picture in "5 Against The House" beneath its humour, glamour and novelty.

The story concerns four students, Guy Madison, Brian Keith, Kerwin Mathews and Alvy Moore, who while on their way to join the college after a summer vacation, halt for a while at a huge gambling establishment in Reno. There they witness an unsuccessful attempt

THE SCORE

The Central Board of Film Censors banned the following 19 films from Hollywood during the first six months of 1955 :

1. "Jesse James Vs. The Daltons" (Columbia)
2. "Princess of the Nile" and Trailer (20th Century-Fox)
3. "Flame And The Flesh" and Trailer (MGM)
4. "The Mad Magician" (Columbia)
5. "Bengal Brigade" (Universal-International)
6. "Naked Alibi" and Trailer (Universal-International)
7. "Dawn At Socorro" and Trailer (Universal-International)
8. "Playgirl" and Trailer (Universal-International)
9. "Rogue Cop" and Trailer (MGM)
10. "Pushover" and Trailer (Columbia)
11. "Four Guns to the Border" and Trailer (Universal-International)
12. "Hell And High Water" and Trailer (20th Century-Fox)
13. "Iron Claw" (Columbia)
14. "Three for the Show" and Trailer (Columbia)
15. "Three Hours To Kill" (Columbia)
16. "Law Vs. Billy the Kid" and Trailer (Columbia)
17. "The Adventures of Hajji Baba" (Allied Artists)
18. "Man Without a Star" (Universal-International)
19. "Rage At Dawn" (RKO)

by a gangster to hold up one of the cashiers and hear the police claim that the place is proof against holdups. They return to school and while Guy Madison resumes his intimate romance with Kim Novak, a cafe singer, and occasionally handles Brian Keith, a psycho-neurotic case, who now and then gets insanity fits, Mathews, supposed to be a brilliant student, starts pondering over the gambling house's claim to be holdup-proof and taking it as a challenge to his intelligence soon comes with a flawless plan to stage a successful holdup at the place. He convinces his friends that conspiracy and robbery with threat to kill, but using no weapons, are not crimes if they are done with the intention of returning the money, and he persuades them to participate in the scheme. Madison, however, learns about the proposed crime only when he is already inside a house trailer along with Kim Novak, on way to Reno. He tries to dissuade others from the plan but Keith pulls out a gun and threatens Madison not only to allow the plan to be carried out but to participate in it along with Kim. The robbery is staged successfully but now Keith turns the play into serious business as he tries to escape with the loot. Mathews tries to stop him but he rushes to a garage only to be cornered by the police who arrive on the scene. Madison appeals to the police not to shoot at him and then going near him manages to bring him out of his neurotic state. In the end as Keith heads to a hospital, the others go scot-free.

Final Verdict : This is a brazen blueprint of crime. Its reprehensible criminal complexion and its suggestive sex tones, make it a picture completely deserving to be banned.

PICTURES IN MAKING

Always sly and often unnecessarily so! That is a part of the art that a woman is. She loves to cock the eye and look wonderingly even at those she has been seeing for years. It all adds new zest to old romance. Vyjayantimala gives love a new twist in "Kismet-ka-Khel", a romantic thriller.

★

GEMINI STUDIOS (Madras)

"Insaniyat", Producer-director S. S. Vasan's mammoth production starring Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand, Bina Rai, Vijaylaxmi, Jayant, Jairaj, Agha, Shobhana Samarth and Kumar, is more than half-way through. A new addition to the glittering star-cast is Zippy, a trained chimpanzee, and a television and screen star of Hollywood. Flown all the way from Hollywood, Zippy's arrival in Madras was a sensational event that drew large crowds. Endowed with almost human intelligence, Zippy can do a hundred different things with the polish of a finished artiste. Zippy's trainer, Ralph Quinlan, bought the chimp for 3,000 dollars when he was a tiny little imp. Within two-and-a-half years of patient training, Zippy attained stardom and a big name that tempted Producer Vasan to feature him in his spectacular "Insaniyat". Apart from the imposing star cast, "Insaniyat" has a dramatic story with plenty of mass appeal. And the way Producer-director Vasan is sweating over it day and night, we are sure that the picture is going to create new motion picture history. No wonder then, filmgoers often compare Mr. Vasan with Hollywood's Cecil B. De Mille, known for his epoch-making pictures. Ramanand Sagar has written the dialogue while Rajendra Krishna has composed the lyrics. Some of the tunes by C. Ramchandra are reported to be attractive. "Insaniyat" is scheduled for an all-India premiere in September and we can rely on Mr. Vasan to keep the date.

PAKSHIRAJA STUDIOS (Coimbatore)

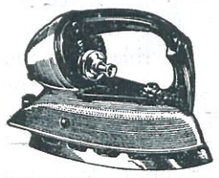
"Azaad", produced and directed by S. M. S. Naidu, is holding its own at two cinemas simultaneously in Bombay, the Minerva and Jai Hind in the eighteenth week and entertaining the crowds with its intriguing story, lilting music and fine dances. The way the people have taken to " Azaad," the picture seems to be a spicy appetizer all right in dry Bombay. To say that the film fans are " Azaad "-crazy, is no exaggeration and it is probably one of the best entertainers we have had in recent times. "Azaad" stars Dilip Kumar in two different roles—sometimes as a dashing bandit and sometimes as the respectable, bearded Khan Saheb—and with glamorous Meena Kumari as his prize, the picture has all the romance anyone would wish for. Producer-director S. M. S. Naidu is now busy with the script of his next picture which will go into shooting soon. This one is being planned on most ambi-

When a woman is angry neither the drum nor any musical instrument can console her. She wants the man—the victim of her fury. With Nimmi in that mood, David and Kishore have a hard time of it in "Bhai Bhai", an AVM social tale.

tious lines, characteristic of its producer and will star two top-notchers, Dilip Kumar and Vyjayantimala.

MEHBOOB PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Producer-director Mehboob is in another quandary now as regards his classic Gevacolour picture "Mother India," trying to find a suitable young boy to play Nargis' son. To begin with, Producer-director Mehboob, searched all over India for the right heroine, and then decided that there was none better than Nargis to fill the great role he had in mind. He is at the moment, frantically looking out for someone to play Nargis' son and owing to his fastidious nature, he is hard to please. Let us wait and see who is the lucky boy to get this coveted role.



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"Mother India" is a village story starring Nargis, Raj Kumar, Jillobai and Sajjad, a three-year-old tot, with melodious music by Naushad. Director Zia Sarhady's "Awaaz," starring Nalini Jaywant, Usha Kiran, Zul Vellani and Chandrashekhar, is ready for release.

Zippy Adds Rare Entertainment To "Insaniyat"—A Nation Goes "Azaad" Mad—Nationwide Search To Find Nargis A Son In Mehboob's "Mother India"—Amiya Chakrabarty Makes "Seema" Another Screen Classic—AVM's "Bhai Bhai" Getting Ready For Release—Bimal Roy's "Devdas", A Great Emotional Sigh.

MARS AND MOVIES (Bombay)

More than half of "Seema" produced and directed by Amiya Chakrabarty is ready. Starring Nutan as the heroine opposite Balraj Sahni, "Seema" is a highly emotional story in the right royal Amiya tradition and bound to move audiences. Under Amiya's intelligent direction, Nutan radiates an entirely new personality and contributes in no small measure to the box-office quality of "Seema." Her performance has to be seen to be believed. Shubha Khote, a newcomer, plays an important role in "Seema." and shows promise of blossoming into a good artiste. From the studio reports we have been hearing from day to day, Amiya's "Seema" when it is completed will probably end as a screen classic.

AVM PRODUCTIONS (Madras)

Madras at one time was a centre of only Tamil and Telugu pictures but with Hindi pictures from here becoming more and more popular, AVM has rigntly realised tne importance of devoting more and more time to production of Hindi pictures commanding an all-India market. Their latest one, which is making rapid progress at the spacious, well-built AVM Studios, is "Bhai Bhai" starring not one but just seven stars from Bombay —Ashok Kumar, Kishore Kumar, Nimmi, Nirupa Roy, Meena Shorey, David and Om Prakash—with direction by M. V. Raman and dialogue and lyrics by Rajendra Krishna. Madan Mohan has composed some catchy tunes for "Bhai Bhai," sung by our popular playback singers. "Bhai Bhai" is a story of domestic strife and struggles of two brothers played by Ashok and Kishore. Yet another Hindi social on the floor is "Chori Chori" starring Nargis and Raj Kapoor and directed by Anant Thakur. "Shiv Bhakta," a mythological starring Padmini, Shahu Modak and Pandari Bai, is still running at the Majestic, Bombay and seems to have been liked by the masses.

BIMAL ROY PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Bimal Roy's "Devdas", based on Sarat Chandra's popular Bengali novel of the same name, has made the lazy ones sit up and think while the quiet ones in the studios have begun to rave about the picture. We can, therefore, safely conclude that "Devdas" is likely to become a hit of the year. Starring Dilip Kumar in the tragic role of Devdas —a role that fits him like a glove —opposite attractive Suchitra Sen of Bengal, and co-starring vivacious Vyjayantimala and Motilal, "Devdas" has many weepy situations to bring home the story of frustrated love. Music by S. D. Burman is appropriate while Bimal Roy's direction is reported to be excellent. "Devdas" will take another two months for completion. Meanwhile, "Amanat" directed by Arabind Sen and starring Bharat Bhushan, Chand Usmani, Nazir Hussain, Asha Mathur and Pran, is awaiting release at the Royal Opera House, Bombay. The musical score is by Salil Chaudhury with lyrics by Shailendra.

KASHYAP PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Working quietly without any fuss, Producer-director D. D. Kashyap has completed "Aan Baan" starring Nalini Jaywant, Usha Kiran, Ajit, Mahipal and supported by Ullhas, Pran and Manmohan Krishna. The Screens are distributing "Aan Baan" and the picture will be on the screen before long.

FESTIVAL FILMS (Bombay)

Fast nearing completion is "Chaar Deewaren" produced by A. Shakoor and directed by Keshavrao Dhaiber. The star cast is led by light-eyed Nigar Sultana, Vijaylaxmi, Ranjana Shukla and Karan Dewan with Wasti, Mirza Musharaf, Jankidas and Master Rajoo lending suitable support. The title "Chaar Deewaren" is

thought-provoking. Let us hope the picture does provoke new thought. "Chaar Deewaren" has melodious music by Nashad.

ROOPNAGAR LTD. (Bombay)

Producer-director Roshanlal Malhotra has completed quite a few sequences of "Fifty Fifty" starring Nalini Jaywant. "Fifty Fifty" depicts the life of a young, modern couple characteristic of the present times.

FORTUNE FILMS (Bombay)

Filmgoers are anxiously awaiting the release of "Madh Bhare Nain," a romantic social starring Bina Rai opposite Kishore Kumar. Produced by R. L. Anand and directed by Hem Chunder, "Madh Bhare Nain" is reported to have become good and has every chance of succeeding at the box-offices. Music is by S. D. Burman.

RAGHUVIR CHITRA NIKETAN (Bombay)

"Hari Har Bhakti" produced and directed by C. Raghuvir and starring Asha Mathur, Ullhas, Indira, Vivek, Shahu Modak and Trilok Kapoor, is practically ready for the screen. This mythological has lavish sets, good music plus a popular episode from Indian mythology, the storehouse of knowledge and wisdom. The world rights of "Hari Har Bhakti" are controlled by Kumar & Co.

SHAH PICTURES (Bombay)

Director Naseem Siddiqui is busy shooting some scenes of "Shahi Chor" starring charmer Shakila, Diljeet, Noor, Jayant and Hiralal. "Shahi Chor" is a Ruritanian romance with the usual court intrigues, sword-duels, and romance punctuated by pretty damsels. Some of the distribution rights of this popular picture have been already sold.

SHARAD PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Two pictures likely to come on the screen soon are "Oonchi Haveli" starring Nirupa Roy, Karan Dewan and Bhagwan and "Mastani" starring Nigar, Manhar Desai, Shahu Modak and Agha. Some of the tunes in these two pictures have already become popular on the radio. At the studios, "Sati Anusuya" starring Nirupa Roy is making steady progress. Others in the cast are Manhar Desai, Sulochana and B. M. Vyas. A new one planned to go on the floor next month is "Gulbakavali," a box-office story which is known to both young and old. The cast of "Gulbakavali" is being selected.

DAWLAT CORPORATION LTD. (Bombay)

This firm has a good selection of 16 mm Indian films for non-theatrical exhibition. Already many fans are availing themselves of this opportunity to see the films in their own homes under ideal conditions at reasonable cost. The company is adding to its list of popular hits in 16 mm and today it boasts of 130 Indian films, some of the recent additions being, "Musafirkhana," "Aan Baan," "Taksaal," "Swapna Sundari," "Mahatma Udangar," "Vanjam" and "Grihalakshmi." Remember you have a wide and varied choice suitable for homes, educational institutions, schools, colleges, etc. Dawlat Corporation Ltd. also distributes in 16 mm. pictures produced by Universal International.

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FILM SHOW PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

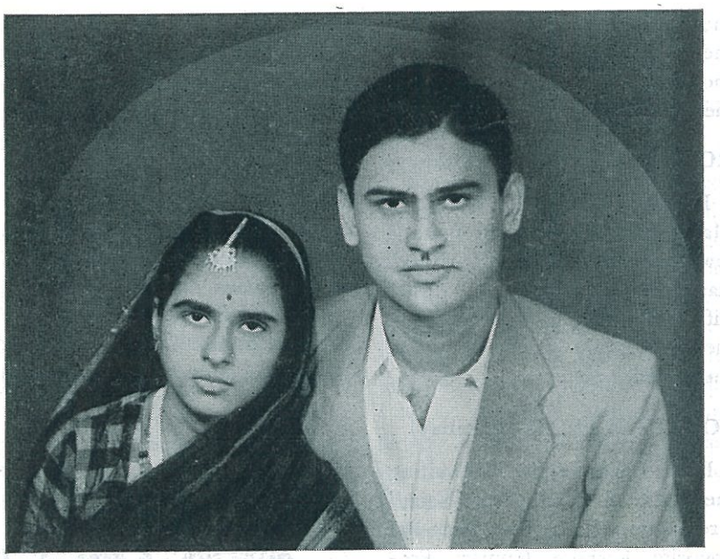
"Madhur Milan," produced and directed by K. G. Punwani, was passed by the censors without a cut. Nigar Sultana and Mahipal play the lovers supported by Roopmala, Madan Puri and Kesari. The musical score is by Bulo C. Rani.

P. R. FILMS (Bombay)

Director Shakti Samanta's maiden assignment is "Bahu" now under production at the M. &. T. Studios, Andheri. Described by the producers as "a family social with a difference," "Bahu" stars Usha Kiran, Karan Dewan, Shashikala, Pran, Johnny Walker and Manju. The theme centres round the Bahu of a family—often the most harassed individual in many Indian families. We hope Shakti Samanta makes "Bahu" an interesting picture with his experience of Bombay Talkies of years to draw upon.

SADIQ PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

Box-office success seems to have come the way of Producer-director M. Sadiq after quite a long time, hearing the glowing reports of "Musafirkhana" released in many cities in the north some time ago. "Musafirkhana" is a fine comedy starring Shyama and Karan Dewan with catchy music by O. P. Nayyar and is expected to be released in Bombay on the 9th of September at the Novelty. Meanwhile, Sadiq Babu is writing the script of his next social which will go into shooting soon.



Married ! At Gulbarga, Harishkumar Jain, son of Seth Fatehchand Munot of Amraoti, took Kumari Kamla, daughter of Seth Motilal Bhalgat of Gulbarga, as wife and partner. May they be happy and prosperous.

SUNNY ART PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

"Uran Khatola" has turned out to be another hit for Producer-director S. U. Sunny, the way it is still drawing crowds at the Imperial, Bombay. Nimmi, Dilip Kumar and Suryakumari constitute the eternal triangle of love and conflict in "Uran Khatola." The fantasy has some lovely tunes which have become popular with the masses.

SAHU FILMS LTD. (Bombay)

Producer-director Kishore Sahu has the rare knack of combining speed with quality. And that is the reason why "Kismet-Ka-Khel" has become exciting and is also rapidly nearing completion. Vyjayantimala portrays the dancing heroine opposite Sunil Dutt for the first time. The supporting cast is led by Begum Para, Shreenath, Kamal Jit, Mukri, Yashodhara and others. Music is by Shanker and Jai Kishen.

ALL INDIA PICTURES (Bombay)

Producer P. N. Arora is shooting a social starring Vyjayantimala at the Famous Pictures Studios. Direction is by M. Sadiq.

SAIGAL BROTHERS (Bombay)

Director Mohan Segal is happy with the progress of "Krorepati" starring Kishore, Shashikala, Smriti Biswas, K. N. Singh, Anoop Kumar and Radha Kishan. Written by I. S. Johar, "Krorepati" depicts the fate of those who are money-mad. Music is by Shanker and Jai Kishen.

D. P. PRODUCTIONS (Bombay)

"Teen Bhai" starring Shyama and Bharat Bhushan and directed by Hem Chunder is ready for the screen. "Teen Bhai" has a theme centring round the life of three brothers, emphasizing the age-old moral that in unity lies strength.

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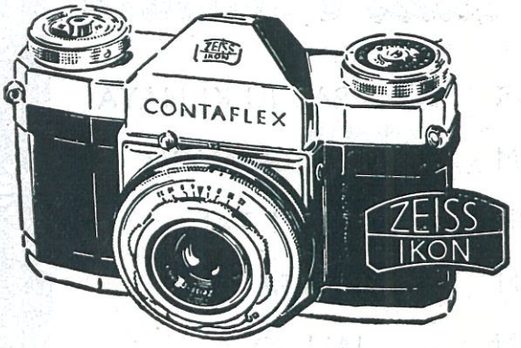

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It is hardly an age for wondering and yet they often take an affected pose to make a favourable impression of their innocence. This smart and intelligent artiste, Usha Kiran, gives a fine performance in "Aan Baan", a romantic story.

YOUR REVENGE

"As a regular reader of "filmindia" and an admirer of your free and frank writings, I am constrained to point out, that your editorial in the issue of June 1955 on linguistic redistribution of States, displays a completely one-sided view and betrays a lack of correct appreciation of facts.

"First of all, your contention that linguistic redistribution will result in balkanization of India has no substance at all. The states that will be affected are Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Hyderabad, Mysore, Andhra, Madras and Travancore Cochin—seven in number and these will have to be recast into Gujarat, Maharashtra, Visalandhra, Samyukta Karnatak, Aikya Kerala and Tamilnad—only six states. Thus you will appreciate that linguistic redistribution will not result in further fragmentation but will actually make the country more unified.

"Further your observation that there is no country divided on linguistic basis is surprising as we have an excellent example in U.S.S.R., where the various constituent republics are founded on linguistic basis. They carry on their state administration in their own languages which alone are understood by the common man and correspond with the Federal Government in the Russian. The brilliant success of this arrangement in forging national unity and specially the facilities it afforded for the healthy growth and preservation of the culture, heritage and distinct characteristics of each community will not, I am sure, fail to impress Mr. Nehru during his present tour and bring about a radical change in his attitude towards the long-standing problem.

"The cultural contact and the national unity in multi-lingual states, that you have gloated over, is superficial and misleading. Hundred and fifty years of association of Andhras and Tamils in Madras State has only left them with more mutual suspicion and hatred than ever before. Two crores of Andhras have all along suffered under the domination of Tamils to the detriment of their interests and if at all there is any amount of true goodwill and friendship between these two people, it is only now, after the creation of Andhra State.

"If you still want further proof of the desirability of linguistic states I would only invite you to visit Andhra State to see for yourself the great strides that are being made in the field of Irrigation, Hydro Power, Highway development and industrialization as against the arid picture of the past. Nothing is farther from the truth than your description of Andhra State as "an ugly, rickety baby". Granted goodwill and co-operation from the Centre, Andhra with the realization of the various ambitious plans now on hand and the vast natural resources that are remaining yet untapped, is destined to emerge very soon as a **first rate state in India.**

"Likewise the Kannadigas are living under four Governments without having their due share of attention or development of their resources and similarly others.

"The demand for linguistic states is the heartfelt desire of nearly 10 crores of people and has been there for the past forty years awaiting fulfilment. It has already been conceded by the National Congress which had readily reorganized its provincial committees on linguistic basis.

"We have chosen the democratic form of Government and it is an undeniable fact that no democracy can be a success unless the administration is carried on in a language that is understood by the man in the street. This is the backbone of and the main principle underlying the linguistic demand which had prompted Bapuji to readily come out as an ardent advocate of linguistic redistribution. It is a great pity nowadays that many vehement critics

That is one way a woman can demand absolute obedience from her husband. And if she uses that on the man's nose, he will get a flat nose all his life. We don't know what pretty Bina Rai is doing with that hammer but we are sure she uses it effectively in Gemini's great classic "Insaniyat", produced and directed by S. S. Vasan.

in their feverish attacks on linguistic states completely miss their bus and indulge in cheap accusations. The very fact, that the agitation for linguistic states did not stand, on any occasion, in the way of its protagonists throwing their full weight and making supreme sacrifices, which are second to none, for the cause of national independence, explodes the myth of national disunity supposed to result from linguistic redistribution.

"Why not then bestow a more serious and sympathetic thought on this long-standing national problem requiring urgent solution?"

MADRAS **B. Subba Row.**

YOU THINK SO?

"Your editorial in the June issue of "filmindia" entitled "Rushing to the Rocks," although written in your usual vigorous vein, is a timely warning. It is the voice of a patriot who puts his country above everything else, and as such it deserves fully to be taken in that light and seriously considered.

"The consequences of a linguistic redistribution of our territories are apparent to any right thinking man: they cannot but be disastrous, if the trouble in Assam or eruptions of anti-Bengali feelings in Bihar are any pointers. The writing on the wall is unmistakably clear and we can ignore it only at the peril of undoing what has taken a lot of time and sacrifice to achieve. The paramount need of the hour is the unity of India and the development of a strong sense of nationhood: any steps which might jeopardise this aim must be abandoned."

BOMBAY. **M. S. Lulla.**

BENT ON SUICIDE

"Your leader in the June issue raises a very pertinent point in that it tries to probe deeply into the most cantankerous growth of our national life and politics that passes by the name of linguistic redistribution. Verily, the great work by Sardar Patel, the master builder and chief architect of present day India, is well on the way to be undone if the creation of Andhra is any indication of the shape of things to come. The balkanization of India will virtually write an epitaph on the national cohesion and solidarity which are the main requisites for putting our house in order. If one is conscious enough to see which way the wind is blowing, he would readily agree that parochialism is fast eating into the vitals of this great nation and numerous regional gods are all kicking up an unholy row to get loaves and fishes for themselves.

"A little while earlier we saw the tragedy enacted in the Goalpara incident. Following in quick succession, the current Punjab movement by Akalis is there showing arrant wooden approach of these misguided fanatics. The dirty work done by our erstwhile masters to perpetuate the tyranny of the British boot fostered jealousy and bitterness in our own national boundaries. The technique of linguistic redistribution will drive the proverbial last nail in the coffin.

"I seize upon this opportunity to make an earnest appeal to our destiny-makers to see for themselves the raison d'etre of your thesis under reference and act according to the spirit of the same. Coming down to brass tacks, they have only to cross the t's and dot the i's. Our salvation clearly lies in the way shown by you."

ARRAH. **Prem Chandra Sinha.**

PEOPLE ARE HYPNOTISED

"A clarion call is sounded! A journalist who is at heart a patriot can alone write so forcefully and fearlessly on one of the vital problems of the day—the linguistic division of India. Your powerful editorial "Rushing to the Rocks" in the June issue of "filmindia" vividly and clearly focuses as to what a colossal destruction of human endeavour and our hard won freedom will ensue in the eventuality of such a calamity. The formation of Andhra on the linguistic principle was one of the greatest political blunders. Close upon its heels the clamour for more linguistic fragments of the country which is merely a logical sequence is gathering momentum.

"When the unity of the country is the vital need of the hour to build up a new India (Nehru's dynamic phrase) and shape the socialistic pattern of society, nothing is more pathetic and sorrowful than this fanatic drive of a few power crazy Caesars to perpetuate their small ivory shells of poisonous communalism, petty rabid jealousies and provincial rivalries which are bound to be unleashed by linguistic fragmentation of our country.

"Your editorial poses a challenge to all the patriots and nationalists to muster up strength and put up a united front against this linguistic cyclone which will sweep away the solidarity, integrity and basic unity that is India. The hour of action has come to prevent further reactions of bigotry arising from the insurgence of linguism so that Nehru hears the people's powerful voice of sanity and wisdom before it is too late. The people owe it to themselves to halt their motherland rushing to the rocks."

BOMBAY. **Mansukh G. Bhagat.**

CUTTING TO UNITE

"Your leading article "Rushing to the Rocks" in the June issue is at once a desperate and praiseworthy effort of a nationalist who is pained to see the country's unity disrupted at the hands of a few political maniacs for whom to be in news is more necessary than national homogeneity. It is a timely warning to our leaders whose inaction and appeasing

policy is fanning the fire of linguistic separatism to a dangerous extent where Indians are quarrelling with Indians for apparently no sane reasons.

"It is quite strange that in these days of scientific advancement when the world is becoming shorter and shorter and nations are getting closer to each other some people should have such bigoted ideas and narrow outlook. Let us pray that reason and logic will prevail in the end and every citizen of this country will be an Indian first and an Indian last."

AJMER. **Prem Chandra Sinha.**

THE WOMAN IN BED

"Are we going crazy? Somebody is reported to have undertaken a fast unto death to secure a total ban on crosswords in Saurashtra. A campaign against drinking tea and smoking has also been let loose in the same State recently. Someone thinks that even tea and sugar are luxuries which should be shunned in our 'Ram Rajya'.

"One can understand and support Prohibition, because drink is an evil. But how can you account for this movement against tea-drinking—an absolutely innocent and harmless habit? It has recently been declared by American scientists that tea is one of the most harmless as well as refreshing drinks; that unlike other stimulants it produces no bad after-effects; and that it does enhance efficiency in factories and offices. If we are to shun tea and tobacco and go to bed at 11 in the night, what charm does life contain?

BOMBAY. **M. S. Lulla.**

OLD STABLE

"Minerva Cinema of Bombay where "Azaad" is being shown at present is a hopeless cinema house. Its fans are fitted very much above the seats with the result that the filmgoers never stop perspiring. The other defect is that there is not much space between the rows. We have to go to our seats after requesting a couple of persons to leave their seats for a minute or so till we reach our seats. This is a great inconvenience which we have to suffer because of the faulty arrangement of the cinema house. The third defect noticed is that the urinals in the cinema are too few in view of the rush during the interval."

BOMBAY. **Mrs. Satwanti Dayal.**

GOVERNMENT BEGGING TOO

"Of beggar nuisance in India a "sufferer" writes in a Madras daily thus:

"I was recently in Ceylon for five months travelling a lot in that beautiful island and did not see more than a dozen beggars there in all. Never a single one on the railway platform or inside the railway carriage, or even in the bus stand. Here and there on the roadside I saw a few invalid beggars.

Mimicry is a great art and Dilip Kumar is a great artiste at it. If that little stick, the pose he has struck and the crowd around remind you of Pandit Nehru on a Congress platform, don't put it down to coincidence. In creating life on the screen, one has to have a model in view and in making speeches—tall and short ones—a man cannot have a better model than Nehru. Dilip is delivering his burden—let us hope it is not a welfare burden—in Gemini's super screen classic "Insaniyat", produced and directed by S. S. Vasan.

"When I landed in Dhanushkodi I had to face about 40 beggars in the railway station and they stuck to us like bees. We, second class passengers, could not even talk to fellow passengers and arrange our luggage peacefully. Beggars got into the carriage too. They shouted and yelled breathlessly giving us no peace. Myself and a few others had to take shelter inside the I.R. room till the train left."

"This is too true. Can't the Government do something to stop this menace?"

CANNANORE. **K. C. Karunakaran.**

CENSORS AGAIN

"Judas' scholarly remarks on the calculated design of the Hollywood film producers to distort history apply with equal force to the Indian producers. Time and again not only ancient, but even comparatively modern history has been mercilessly "murdered" to suit the whim of the box office.

"Historical films are meant to enlighten people, and if in the course of their real purpose they entertain well and good, but under no circumstances should the producers be allowed the liberty to play havoc with the history. Even the so called "religious" pictures are no exception to this general habit of distortion. Authenticity is the most important aspect of historical films and must not be allowed to be sacrificed.

"In this respect censors have a great responsibility to discharge and it is hoped that as a result of your remarks, the matter will receive due attention at their hands."

BOMBAY. **M. S. Lulla.**

MUSLIM CASTES

"To a question "Why there is no caste system among Muslims?" in your June issue, you replied "All Muslims are one in prayer and politics. But in parlour and profits, they have as many castes as any other religious group."

"This reply, of course, may meet with rage and resentment from many a misguided Muslim, but nevertheless, it is a fact and quite an unfortunate one at that, inasmuch as this sort of caste system is rampant in the rank and file of the very people who claim to be the followers of the great Prophet of Arabia who never drew a line of difference between the ruler and the ruled in his treatment. But today, leave alone the modern irreligious Muslims, what do the Moulvis and Mullahs, the Pirs and Pirzadas, who preach universal brotherhood and deprecate caste system through their homilies and sermons actually practise? Well, I am sorry to confess that many of these divines, quite repugnant to the teachings of the great Prophet, observe distinction even in the matter of eating on a common "Das-

terkhan"; for, there are always two "Dasterkhans," one for their common "Mureeds" (Disciples) and another to be graced and honoured by them with their special "Mureeds" served with "Murghis" and "Mevajats" (fruits) and "shiriness" and "sherbets", of course, all at the cost of their hosts!

"In the light of this single fact alone, the veracity of your reply quoted above is amply borne out and I hope every sane and rational Muslim, desirous of preaching equality and brotherhood, as enjoined by our great Prophet, shall view bonafide criticisms of our un-Islamic acts by non-Muslims, with calm and unbiassed mind and then act rightly to suffer no chance of such criticisms being levelled against him by himself practising the teaching of Islam in letter and spirit and then embark upon preaching the same to others. But, will he, my dear big critic?"

MADRAS. **A. M. Din.**

YOU UNEDUCATED HINDU

"Last year Maulana Azad's Archaeological Department spent two-and-a-half lakhs of rupees for the preservation of Muslim monuments, the details of which were published some time back in "filmindia".

"Unfortunately some communal taxpayers like you and me raised hell over those secular items of our expenditure and so this year the report wisely omitted too many details. But the amount **increased** from two and a half lakhs to three and a half lakhs!

"Katla Ferozeshah Rs. 29,000, Kutab Minar Rs. 9,261, Humayun's Tomb Rs. 2,720 (not Humayun Kabir's), Khusro Bagh, Allahabad Rs. 3,791, minor repairs in Agra Rs. 6,700, Idgah, Agra Rs. 43,000, Garden around Taj Rs. 83,000, Tippu Sultan's Palace, Bangalore and historic remains of Hasan Rs. 8,000, Tomb Shah Makhdum Daulat(?) and Baba Louli's (?) Masjid Rs. 27,000, Shah Alam's Masjid, Ahmedabad Rs. 24,000, Bibi Ka Maqbara, Aurangabad Rs. 4,000, Salabat Khan's tomb, Ahmednagar Rs. 2,000, Gol Gumbaj, Bijapur Rs. 13,000, Malkh Maidan Cannon Rs. 6,000, Asar Mahal Rs. 3,000, Baridshan Fort, Bidar Rs. 4,000, Jami Masjid, Mandu Rs. 10,000, Hushang Shah's tomb Rs. 7,000, Tomb of Mohamed Ghaus, Gwalior Rs. 2,000, Itmad-ud-daula Tomb, Agra Rs. 8,930, Darya Daulat, Tippu Sultan's Palace Rs. 3,384.

"Quite a few of these unlamented gentlemen whose tombs the Maulana so assiduously strives to protect are unknown to me or any other common man. Leaving aside the deplorable fact that I am but a communal ignoramus, how many professors of history are there in this wide country who have heard of, say, Shah Makhdum Daulat, Baba Louli and Mohamed Ghaus? Who referred the tombs of these "celebrities" to Maulana? That, perhaps, is a secular secret!!!"

Gay as a bird Geeta Bali always brings new life to the screen. Watch her sparkling in "Miss Coca Cola".

BOMBAY. **Kundan S. Daryani.**

TOWARDS COMMUNISM

"Your May 1955 editorial under the caption "Betrayed and Stabbed" is your finest yet.

"Helplessly, sincere patriots witness the sacred fabric of a free society founded on the freedom of the individual being torn to shreds and tatters by amendment after amendment to what they a few brief years ago imagined to be a perfect and enduring Constitution! The powers which this latest one gives to the powers that be are too staggering to imagine.

"It is land today. It will be a 'mismanaged' textile mill tomorrow. It will be something else the day after. One by one the branches of free enterprise will be dismembered and the owners dispossessed.

One by one—mark my words—one by one! That is how the individual is pulled down from his inviolable and exalted seat and reduced to the rank of a timorous automaton ready to carry out unquestioningly the wishes of his rulers! That is how Democracy is strangled and Dictatorship is ushered in!! That is how a vast and unparalleled tragedy unfolds itself!!

"Bravo, sir, you have exposed it all. The resounding blow you have struck in the cause of freedom of the individual will long be remembered by true believers in Democracy. May you noble crusader prosper!!"

EDAMANAL. **M. Madanagopal.**

ONE HONEST MAN

"Bihar Assembly Speaker Mr. Verma has set up a Committee to go into the promises and assurances of Bihar Ministers and their implementation and the time taken for implementing them. We are aghast at the move. If there ever was a sinister move to subvert and overthrow a lawfully constituted Congress Government, it is surely here. How dare anyone, let alone a Congressman of the status of Speaker, probe into a promise of a politician and that too a Congress politician who has managed to become a minister?

"Does the Speaker not know that everything is fair in love, war and Congress politics and that Congress promises are not always meant to be implemented? If he does not know, we must warn him that only fools rush in where angels fear to tread."

KALYAN CAMP. **Mrs. Lalitadevi.**

COME ON, VASAN

"The Government of India is increasing its step-motherly treatment towards the film industry, even though it is one of the main industries of this country and one of the main sources of income to feed the innumerable follies of the Government. Under the plea of morality, culture and civilization and what not these sadists of our Government want to crush the industry. Every Tom, Dick and Harry of the ruling party has started vomiting bile against the industry. But do they not realize the immense popularity of the industry? Do they not see more people rushing to the cinemas than to a meeting where a Congress boss is speaking? Do they not study the figures of the increased entertainment tax they get due to the increased popularity of the industry or do they take all the other Indians to be fools and criminals excepting a few of them?

"It is high time the industry rose and protested against gross injustice. As

USE WORLD'S MOST FAVOURITE CHOCOLATE LAXATIVE CASTOPHENE

Lifting a limp lump is a rather tiresome exercise in romance. It is better to leave them lying in bed than strike an artificial pose. Ajit is evidently weighing Sheila Ramani in "Shahzada", a tale of love.

proposed by Judas in the May issue of your esteemed magazine, Mr. S. S. Vasan should immediately take up the cause and enlist the sympathy of the public. Unless the industry rises and protests in a full-fledged manner and opens the eyes of our Congress bosses, they will continue the indifferent attitude thinking that our film industry has got no guts and no public to back its cause. Now it is up to the industry to show them that our film industry is not a helpless lamb whom the Congress bosses can whip as they like. Let Mr. Vasan start the fight. I am sure the whole cinema loving public will back him till the end and get him victory. Through these columns I request Mr. Vasan and other important members of the industry to start the war soon before it is too late."

BERHAMPUR. **Uma Kant Acharya.**

NEHRU CHACHA'S MAGIC

"We are told that besides the three arms of the defence services, our country can now boast of Territorial Army, Auxiliary Territorial Army, National Cadet Corps, Auxiliary Cadet Corps, National Volunteer Force, etc., etc., which enable our youth to get training in arms. Still we read in papers that dozens of children—mind you not cattle but living children—are being carried away by hyenas and wolves in Uttar Pradesh and by tigers in Vindhya Pradesh.

"We have seen a spate of social enactments which often encroach on the cherished liberty of the individual. Yet an octogenarian in Uttar Pradesh has managed to take a seventh wife more than sixty years younger than him!

"We are told that B.C.G. vaccination will save the young ones from T.B. But Rajaji, whose sincerity is beyond doubt, asserts that the very vaccination is killing or otherwise harming children.

"Our stature in the international field is stated to have grown by leaps and bounds. And yet, we have helplessly to gulp down the insults from Dr. Salazar who gets full support from his strange bed-fellows who all the time profess their friendship and sympathy to us.

"Our production on all fronts is stated to be moving upwards. How then can one explain why millions of our countrymen are on semi-starvation level?

"We have irrigation projects, hydro-electric projects, one-purpose projects, two-purpose projects and multi-purpose projects for which hundreds of crores of rupees are being spent and still it was reported that for a single advertised post carrying all told the princely salary of Rs. 90|- per mensem, as many as 1900 applications among whom were double graduates, graduates, teachers etc., were received!

"Mr. Patel, I am confused. I cannot understand anything of this jumble of contradictions. Verily, Bharat, Mystery is thy name!

CHITTOOR. **H. Savithri Bai.**

IDEA FOR KESKAR

"The Congress Working Committee has proposed that censorship should be applied to films strictly and that too in the script stage to avoid unnecessary complications. I would rather suggest a simpler course. The themes of all the film scripts boil down to one—boy meets girl, his or her daddy says no, then they weep while they sing and sing while they weep, then deus ex machina is pressed into service and ultimately wedding bells ring—just in time to wake up the spectator to go home and sleep in a more comfortable position. Since this is the case why does not the Ministry of Information write out the main plot with suitable secular decency and distribute it among the producers, who may be at full liberty to give it different names and different shapes.

"That would also save Dr. Keskar the trouble of finding censors to his secular taste. A censor is an official appointed to ward off evil from the public by absorbing the greater part of it himself. He is an officer of state who devotes his working hours mainly to seeking out the unaesthetic and unethical and trying to isolate it. In other words the censor is like the virtuous old lady who searched Dr. Johnson's Dictionary for obscene words.

"This would indicate that with increasing responsibilities the censors may be faced with more and more temptations and there should be super-censors just to guard the censors from moral deterioration."

BOMBAY. **H. G. Jugat.**

IN DEFENCE OF RAJAJI

"It is not my desire to start a tirade against one of our readers (because I am always of the opinion that the readers of "filmindia" belong to one community) in regard to the 'Language Issue' posed by Rajaji in "Kalki". But I do like to try to erase the misconception that Rajaji while expressing his views on the subject had poured the venom of his spleen as Mr. Jagdish Lal Shah in the June issue so malevolently put it. For one thing, Rajaji has called a spade a spade and talks plain and simple truth when he does not agree with the procedure that is being adopted to impose Hindi on the non-Hindi population of India.

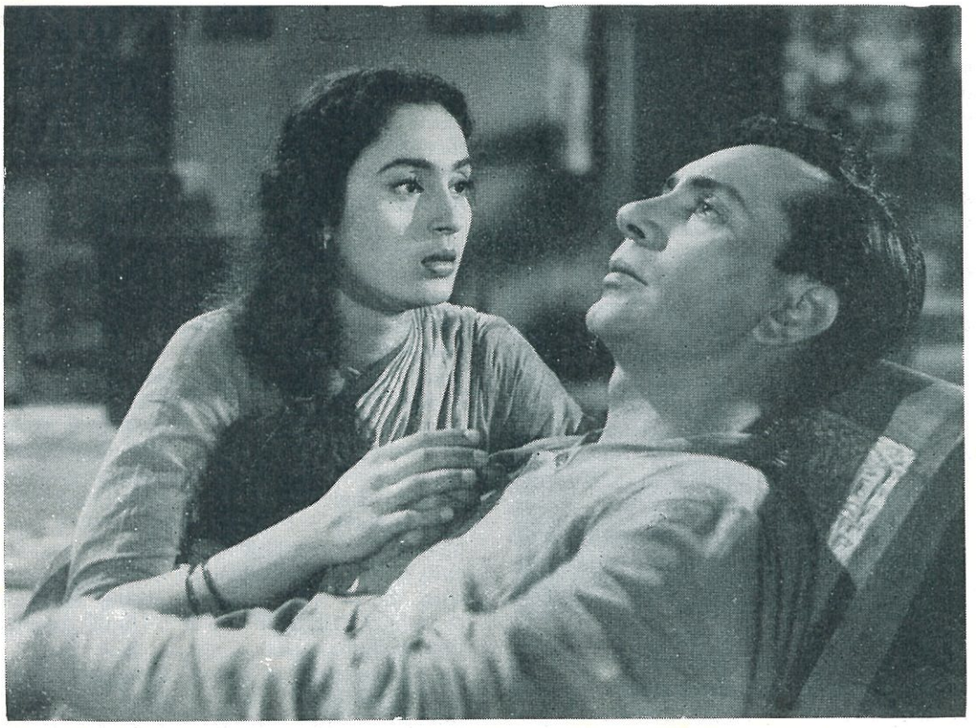
"And again, he drives home the point that Hindi is not quite qualified to become the lingua franca of Bharat, as the Hindi spoken and written by one province is not easily followed by another and as such it must wait and occupy the peak only in the efflux of time."

MADRAS. **R. Venkatesan.**

CHAPLIN AGAIN

"Apropos the letter of Mr. John D. Haidinger of Los Angeles (California) publish-

Sniffing? Or is it just allowing some fresh air to go in? Whatever she does Begum Para always attracts attention. Watch her in "Shahzada", a love tale.



Tears need a man, whatever his age or relationship, for a woman can never wipe them off alone. But this one seems to be throwing pearls before a swine for the man is lost in his own sighs. Anyway, let us see what Nutan and Balraj Sahni are about in "Seema", produced and directed by Amiya Chakravarty.

ed in the 'Woes and Echoes' columns of the June 1955 issue of "filmindia", regarding Ahmed Abbas' article on Chaplin in the January 1955 issue, I wish to state as follows:

"While criticizing Chaplin for his regret at having wasted forty years of his life in America, Mr. Haidinger conveniently omits the context, though immediately Chaplin corrected himself saying "No, I won't say, I wasted those years, because, after all, I did a lot of good work—and I received much friendship and encouragement from many people—but I mean to say that if I knew I would eventually have to leave America, I could have got settled in some other country, may be in my own country." Now, in view of this, Mr. Haidinger's criticism is unjust and unwarranted.

"Next, he says that one of the reasons for refusing re-entry of Chaplin in the U.S. is that he fathered the child of an unwed-mother, which Chaplin supported for years. I do not know how much of this is true, but even in case it is so, Chaplin has done the right thing by the child, and not left it in the lurch, like the Americans have done in Japan, which is a standing proof of their most crude and indecent behaviour. The fact is that Chaplin was not wanted and he was hounded out by hook or by crook, and I am sure, all agree on this point."

B. R. PROJECT. **K. Balachandra Naidu.**

KESKAR'S SUBTLETY

"The case of the 64 Congress Parliamentarians who went all the way to the Congress Working Committee to complain about the immoral effect of most films has created much interest, rather amusement in the film circles.

"It is interesting how these members of Parliament have been able to find time from their multifarious activities to pay attention to the film industry. Also it would be enlightening to know how many of them see films regularly, what to say of possessing any detailed knowledge of film matters. But the most interesting aspect of this development is the readiness with which Dr. Keskar, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting, has agreed to enforce stricter censorship.

"Film industry is already groaning under the weight of very strict and unimaginative censorship and will only ignore the new threat.

"Some film men are cynically suggesting the best thing for Dr. Keskar would be to close down private film making lock, stock and barrel and allow only the Government of India's Films Division to make films.

"However, Mr. Vasan, the President of the Film Federation of India, has promptly recorded a protest against the memorandum of the 64 wise Parliamentarians but it would remain a cry in the wilderness as usual.

"Dr. Keskar is incurable as far as the Indian film industry is concerned, this is what we think!"

KALYAN CAMP. **Mrs. Lalitadevi Jugat.**

STILL ANGLING

"Once an American leader declared, "I am not a politician and my other habits are good". But C. R. Rajagopalachari is not an American leader. He is not only an Indian leader but an anti-American leader to boot. So he is a politician from the lens of his dark glasses to the tip of his walking-stick. One of his amusing and not very edifying habits is to abuse everyone and everything in strident Tamil—and then apologize equally abjectly.

"In his hurry to express his opinion on everything under the sun from the undesirability of B.C.G. to the desirability of marrying dark-complexioned girls, C. R. felt it necessary to express himself on Bandung in words which were more headline-catching than wise. "At Bandung", said our C.R., "Ceylon Premier Sir John Kotelawala acted like a cat trying to roar like a tiger". The comment was flashed across newspaper pages and then came Sir John's retort: "Words of a man in his dotage".

"Immediately this man in his dotage penned a long and "beautiful" letter to Sir John saying "I beg your forgiveness on all fours for my unpardonable rudeness. You have not castigated me enough and I deserve to be spanked on my bottom across your knee."

"The abject apology got as much publicity as the previous abuse and Rajaji's purpose of a place in the publicity sun was served. As for C.R.'s not-so-holy crusade against American atomic tests even the not-so-bright one feels reasonably sure of its ulterior purpose. With Nehru and his favourites going to China and Russia and enjoying themselves as "Red" Robinhoods, is it not a proper time to show off one's un-Americanism? Who knows, a career that started as a Governor-General may be crowned with Presidentship? For the easiest way to become a king is to please the king-maker."

BOMBAY. **Kundan S. Daryani.**

TOO TRUE

"We have drawn up ambitious Five-Year Plans for the economic well-being of our nation, and big projects are under way towards this end. However, I wish to throw light on one of the most urgent needs of our people.

"Our people are, by and large, steeped in unbelievable ignorance and superstition. Reports have appeared in the press about a man offering his tongue at the altar of Goddess Kali, and another setting fire to a temple to test whether God Hanuman himself comes to extinguish the fire! These stray instances show to what extent the

general mass of our people living in rural areas need "mental light".

"Our mythological tales, which translate complicated philosophical thoughts in the form of subtle symbols, have been taken literally with the result that rational thinking has been thrown to winds. In this respect, our films based on mythological stories, have also added to the prevailing confusion.

"May I urge film producers through the columns of your esteemed and much respected magazine not to produce mythological films depicting miracles, for they help in continuing this sorry state of affairs. Rational and logical thinking is the need of the hour and one of the most powerful media of propaganda should strive to lead people to that end.

BOMBAY. **M. S. Lulla.**

BAD ADVERTISEMENT

"From static slides to commercial movie shorts is a natural stage in the process of evolution. Though recognized since long as a powerful medium of publicity in Western countries their advent into India is of not very distant origin. Judging, however, from the rate at which they are being produced these days, one can safely say they have come to stay. Our business community, usually so languid and slow to catch up with the latest trends, has at last begun to show its awareness of the valuable contribution the narrow celluloid strip can make towards selling both ideas and goods. This is a sign that augurs well for the future. At the same time it has to be recorded, albeit with a note of regret, that most of the shorts produced in our country have turned out to be rather very poor in quality, so that they can neither be considered complimentary to the intelligence of the producers nor very beneficial to the interests of their sponsors. Of all the shorts that I have seen so far, J. K. Raymond's "A Successful Suit" has struck me as being the only one that manifests any signs of imagination in conception and skill in presentation. The rest, I am afraid, is poor amateurish stuff that serves no more useful purpose than increase the over-all running time of a show.

"Lest this statement of mine be considered too sweeping a generalization, I may be permitted to deal here briefly with a few of the more widely shown shorts. Dunlopillo's "Dream House" has, in direct contrast to the name, a nightmarish quality about it. Laid in Ashok Kumar's palatial flat, it is a disjointed piece of vulgar exhibitionism. Its principal defect is its jumpy script that goes off track trying hard to connect one thing with another and still another with the ultimate Dunlopillo cushions. Incidentally, the short also reveals what a sissy Ashok Kumar must be in his off-screen life!

"Lever Brothers' "Khushboo ka Charcha" is a stinking piece in spite of the new LUX perfume it seeks to proclaim. If the 'belles' from different states shown in this short are any indication of the beauty this 'soap of the stars' is supposed to impart, I would much rather leave the soap to the stars and rub myself clean with the earth sods from the nearest field. Couldn't the producers get hold of some really good-looking girls possessing fair complexion and smooth skin? It should not have been difficult in a cosmopolitan city like Bombay. And I hope the facial contortions that actress Shashikala displays in this short are not a hangover of the LUX habit! Lever Brothers' other shorts about 'Lifebuoy' and 'Sunlight' soaps also betray innumerable defects, the most prominent among them being the loud and harsh commentary that jars on ears and mind both.

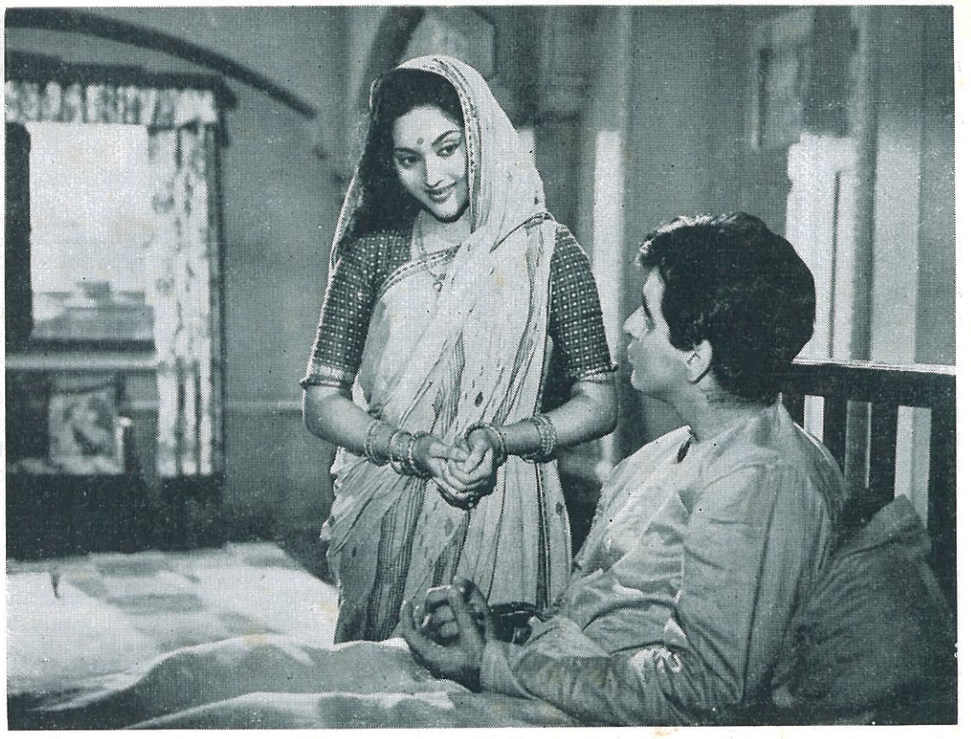
"If there were, however, a prize for stupidity, I am almost sure it would go to Colgate's "Akalmand ko Ishara". In spite of having been produced at the 'great' Shantaram's Rajkamal Kalamandir studios and starring a few easy-to-recognize faces of the screen, it is extremely crude and boring from beginning to end. Its 'piece de resistance' is provided by Jankidas who, clad in a dentist's apparel, intones in a singsong manner the virtues of "Coalgate" (as he pronounces it) Dental Cream and the importance of dental care. But while doing so he opens his mouth wide enough to reveal a glimpse of his own panstained, irregular teeth. And that is what gives away the whole show completely. Tell me, will you be taken in if you came across baldy David testifying to the efficacy of a hair grower? Well, Jankidas trying to sell a tooth paste creates a none-better impression!

"In this strain, numerous other examples can be offered but I think this brief analysis should suffice for the present. One observation that can be made without any fear of contradiction is that, like our feature films, our shorts also suffer from a woeful lack of proper planning and competent handling.

"Production of commercial shorts is a highly specialized task that demands a lot of ingenuity and labour. Those of the producers who wish to go in for it would be well advised to set up separate 'Shorts' departments manned by qualified experts. Technicians and script-writers should be sent abroad to study the latest trends and techniques. How much better it would be if all shorts were made in colour with the help of animated drawings and live puppets, but in the existing state of affairs, that seems to be a very far cry. In the meantime there are very many things which our producers can do to improve the quality of their product. Resources are there in plenty; only will and determination are needed!"

CHANDIGARH. **Prithi Paul Singh.**

When a woman takes wine as her accomplice, she is ready to dig the grave of man. But does a man ever see the game? Very rarely, for the male eyes grow the cataract of sex too quickly. Shamim Chaudhari, a newcomer, seems to know the old game too well, for she has Nasir Khan already on the hook in "Jawab", a tale of love.



Coming so near a bachelor's bed and with such youthful assets is a dangerous proposition in human relationship. And yet Vyjayantimala takes the risk with Dilip Kumar in "Devdas", a theme of frustrated love.

CONGRATULATIONS

"I am writing this to inform you that I have got through my B.A. exams.

"I need not tell you how indebted to you I am for all the help that you have rendered to me from time to time. I am not ashamed of confessing that most of the words I wrote in the examination, most of the phrases and sentences I made use of in answering the papers, were all Baburao's. As an example, my answer to the question on India's population problem began with: **"In India, life is cheap, but living is costly".** How many more, need I quote?

"I am at a loss to find suitable and sufficient words to express my gratitude to you. I may also state here that much of the examination fees, I have paid so far, was from the prizes I received from "filmindia"!

"For all that you have done for me, I can only pray to the Almighty that he should keep you alive—happy and healthy —so that you may guide me and others like me, in years to come. In all the years that I may be destined to live, I will pray for your welfare at least a dozen times a day!"

POONA. **M. S. Viswanathan.**

COME ON, SOUTH INDIANS

"A recent survey by an American magazine has revealed that Japan has scored over India in the matter of film production. While till recently India was ranking next to Hollywood in the number of features produced, this position has now been captured by Japan. What is more, Japanese pictures have won laurels at several international film exhibitions.

"This should set our producers thinking earnestly. They should chalk out plans to re-capture the lost position—or better still go higher. Film production as an industry has a bright future: as a gamble it is doomed to be nowhere. In this sorry state of affairs the only ray of hope is the recent advent of cultured and educated South Indians like Mr. Vasan and Mr. Naidu in the field of film production. The initiative definitely seems to have passed out of the hands of Bombay producers. Anyway, if these gentlemen from the South can again push India to its former rank as the second biggest film producer, they will have done a really remarkable service."

BOMBAY. **M. S. Lulla.**

NEHRU'S AMBASSADORS

"Reporting the bomb plot in the Sind Provincial Assembly, Pakistan, "The Belfast Evening Telegraph" (20-6-55) of Northern Ireland, described Hyderabad, Sind in India and gave the following headline, "Indian Parliament Bomb Plot Foiled".

"One pities the geographical knowledge of the newspaper concerned but one pities more the Indian ambassadors, who are posted in all corners of the world not lifting their little finger to correct such errors immediately and allow people to get wrong news and wrong impressions about our country.

"Prime Minister Nehru woud do well to cease sending his relatives as ambassadors and appoint only men with some efficiency and responsibility to represent our nation."

Joginder Paul Bhandari.

OMAGH (Northern Ireland).

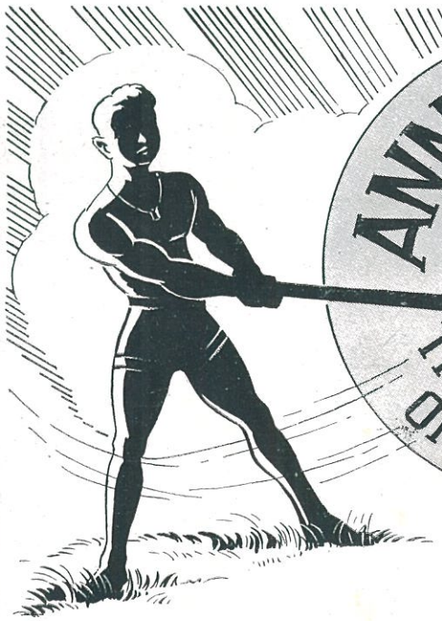
ASK NEHRU

"It is high time that the Indian High Commissioner's office in Singapore closed down. It is a shame and a disgrace that the Indian Government wastes so much of money on the upkeep of this office and they are unable to satisfy anyone with ordinary information like the Export and Import regulations of India or a telephone number of one of the residents of Bombay or Calcutta. Why? Because they have no Indian telephone directories in their office and if a person wants the information where else can he go?

"At times a private commercial body like the Indian Chamber of Commerce can supply the information required promptly and I do not see any reason why the India House cannot have such information handy. Isn't it a disgrace? I do not think any foreign office in Singapore is so negligent in spoiling the name of their country as is the Indian High Commissioner's office. They do not know the ordinary import and export regulations of the country."

SINGAPORE. **Mrs. G. S. Mallya.**

Shakila knows that the picture she is working in has something to do with a thief. So she herself plays the thief in "Shahi Chor", a thrilling romance.



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